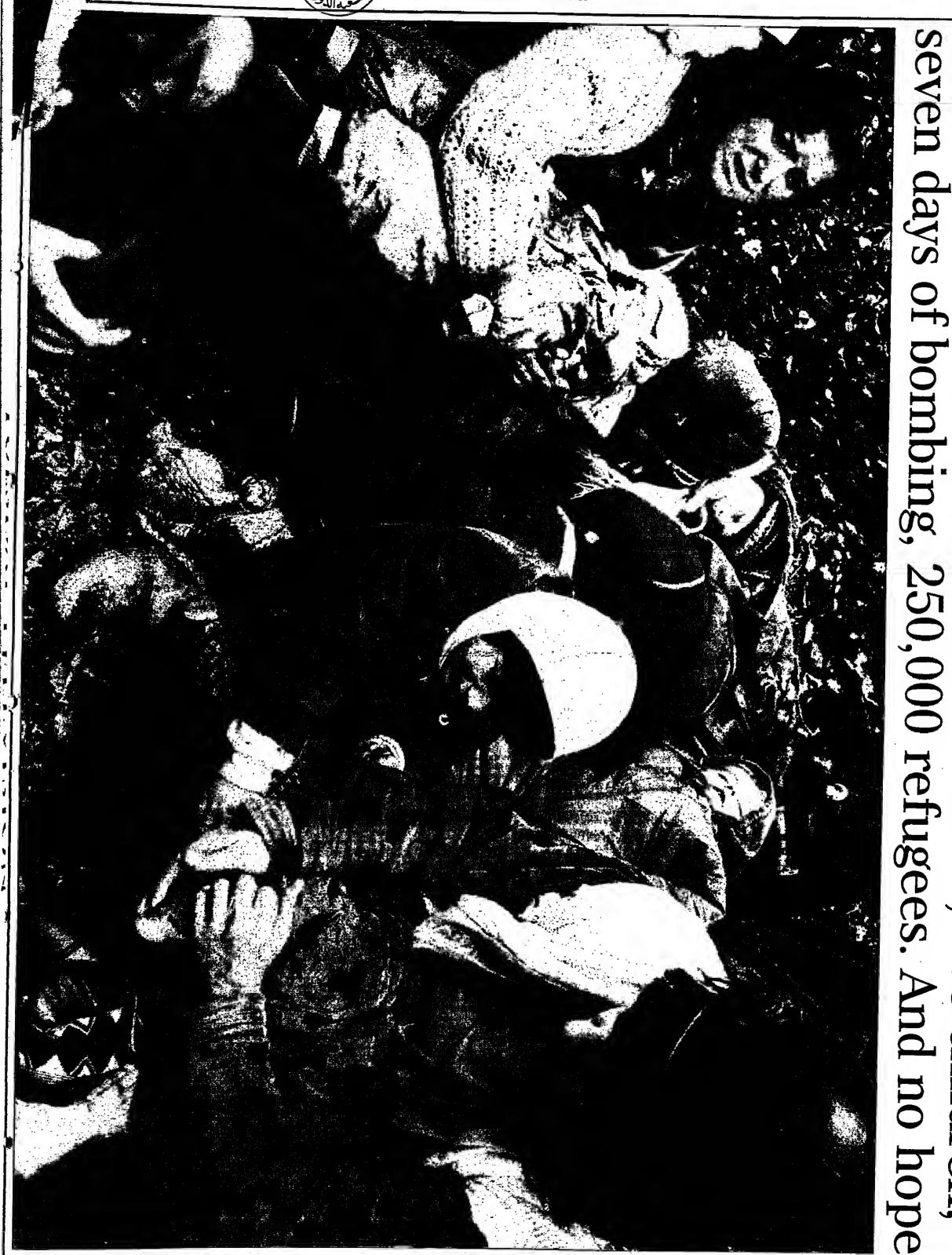
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DARKO BANDIC/AP

WAR IN THE BALKANS

Primakov meets Milosevic Six hours of talks between the Russian Prime Minister and ne Serb leader gained little Page 2

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New bombing system Nato deployed a new badweather bombing system Page 5

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BBC

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cleansing"

"Pec was a city of 100,000. We now have reports that it's almost totally destroyed"

Jamie Shea, Nato spokesman

"It's possible that there are atrocities, but it is not a state strategy'

Vuk Draskovic, Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister

"The answer is to intensify the attacks. It is to get in and hit Milosevic and his thugs very, very hard"

"Thousands of Albanians, young and old, women and children, have been ' massacred"

Tony Blair Ramadan Avdiu, KLA

"The regime in Beigrade is basically a Nazi regime" Aaron Rhodes. International Helsinki Federation

THE INDEPENDENT Wednesday 31 March 1999

Primakov fails to end the bombing

THE PEACE EFFORT

By ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

AS NATO promised to increase its air bombardment of Serb forces in Kosovo, the Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, last night offered a ceasefire in return for an immediate halt in hostilities. After six hours of talks with the Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, in Belgrade, the Serb leader promised he would reduce his forces in Kosovo and allow "all peaceful refugees" to return to the province "if they are Yugoslav citizens", providing the Nato bombardment ends. It seemed unlikely – to say the least - that Nato would accept his offer

Serb television quoted Mr Milosevic as saying that "Nato aggression should stop" because it is a threat to "international security". There was also speculation that the Serbs would be prepared to accept a peace-keeping observer force in Kosovo made up of neutral nations - and perhaps also Russia. But last October's peace agreement in Kosovo itself provided for a reduction in Serb forces and for international observers showed positive signs of ac-- an accord that disintegrated cepting the idea. when the Serbs refused to accept the military implementation of the autonomy plans

in Paris this month. Furthermore Nato, according have to end its support for the continue. "He knows what he

accepted by Kosovo Albanians

ON OTHER PAGES Aid operation opens

New bombing system begins Review. page2 ■ Leading article, Anne McElvoy

Review, page 3

Review, page 4 ■ Ken Livingstone

unlikely step since KLA representatives signed the Paris autonomy agreement. And tens of thousands of Kosovo Albanians do not hold Yugoslav passports; very few acknowledge Yugoslav sovereignty. So how could they "return" to Kosovo? Mr Primakov arrived in Bonn from Belgrade last night to say that Mr Milosevic's offer was "a positive beginning and if the other party [Nato] is willing, a dialogue can start". Mr Milosevic was ready to be "constructive" if Nato

■ Timothy Garton Ash

Early yesterday evening, however, it did not look as though Nato would be able to accept the Serb proposals. The there will be Nato nations all too British Government rejected ready to accept any chance of Mr Milosevic's reported offer and said the bombing would

Kosovo Liberation Army - an has got to do. It's actions on the ground that matter, not words about what might happen if Nato ceases its military operations. And he has a track record of hreaking promises." said a spokesman.

Review, page 5

Indeed, Mr Milosevic - well aware that Nato fatally miscalculated Serb resistance - may simply be trying to gain the moral high ground, aware that his forces could pursue their ferocious campaign in Kosovo the moment Nato rejected his offer. Yet faced with its unwillingness to send ground troops into battle and the humanitarian catastrophe its bombardment provoked - and which Serb forces brought about -

a ceasefire in what now looks like an unwinnable war

Yugoslavia had continued even as Mr Primakov arrived in Belgrade yesterday morning. The handshakes and arm-clasps were fraternal, the smiles broad as he stepped from his Tupoley jet at the glass-shattered airport in Belgrade, only minutes after President Boris Yeltsin had condemned the Nato offensive in Moscow. Amid the broken fabric of the airport, smashed in a Nato air raid on a neighbouring communications centre 48 hours earlier, Mr Primakov said that he was trying to move the crisis into political territory or - as he put it in colloquial Russian - "into the political tub".

Mr Milosevic received Mr Primakov in the Beli Dvor - the ornate "White Palace" that was home to the Yugoslay monarchy and later to Tito - in the Belgrade suburb of Topsider, scarcely three miles from the military base at Rakovica that has already been bombed four times by Nato aircraft. Mr Primakov had brought with him his Defence Minister, Igor Sergeyev, Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, and senior Russian intelligence officers.

Shortly after he sat down with Mr Milosevic, Mr Primakov raised both his arms as if imitating the flight of an aircraft - and it is certain that the Russians expressed interest in examining the wreckage of the American F-117A Stealth fight-



Yevgeny Primakov imitating the flight of an aircraft during talks with Slobodan Milosevic yesterday

er that crashed 25 miles from Belgrade on Saturday night

But even as Mr Milosevic spoke to his Russian guests, new facts were being created on the ground in Kosovo. With more than 25 per cent of the Kosovo Albanians displaced and legions of refugees still pouring into Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro, the Serbs may soon be in a position to claim that northern Kosovo has been abandoned by its Albanian population. There are growing suspicions in Belgrade that once this has been accomplished, Nato may tacitly accept a division of the

province with the capital Pristina, the Drenica region and the Trepca lead, zinc and gold mines - the most valuable piece of real estate in the Balkans - remaining exclusively in Serb hands.

The Serbs remain convinced that Nato has turned into a tool of the KLA - against whose forces the Yugoslav army scored a significant success on Sunday with the capture of scores of new anti-armour weapons. However fanciful the notion, it has been fuelled by Serb claims that Nato raids on Serb security forces in Kosovo have been followed by KLA attacks on the newly

viction that it is the victim of a Nato-KLA plot will only have been reinforced yesterday when the British Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, vouchsafed the view that "if these people [the Kosovo Albanians] say Nato is right to act, who has got the right to say they are wrong?". Hence Mr Milosevic's insistence that any ceasefire must be accompanied by an end to Nato's support for

bombed facilities. Serbia's con-

Figures suggest that up to 36,000 Yugoslav forces - 20,000 soldiers and 16,000 special po- troops to the battle for Kosovo.

the KLA.

lice - are now in Kosovo, clear proof that Nato air strikes have totally failed to dissuade the Serbs from their offensive. Any hope that Mr Milosevic would accede to American and European plans for an international peacekeeping force in Kosovo after two or three days of bombing have been abandoned. Among those most critical of Nato's miscalculations is Carl Bildt, the highly respected former European envoy to Bosnia who has condemned Nato for bombing without the motivation and will to commit ground

They came with no possessions except sadness in their eyes I have such a feeling of guilt. full of images of refugees that think about It tomorrow. For Thank God his parents phone have left. Well, they have surmost who remain and intend to

Dateline Pristina: Our second report

MY PARENTS' house filled up with people last night. They were unknown to us and desperate to find a place to stay overnight. They are from Dragodan, a part of Pristina no possessions; they were not where only Albanians live.

In the afternoon, police entered every house in the neighbourhood - my father tells me there are around 600 - and expelled everyone. It took two hours. They just came in and cleared everything. We have no reports of anyone being killed, though there was some harassment. Armed men in black masks and hlue police helmets

came and said: "You have to leave." The same thing occurred in another part of town,

I saw it through my windows. People were running down the hill. They came with even allowed to take their IDs. They had almost nothing, except a sadness in their eyes. Even the pride that is well known among Albanians seemed destroyed.

Four families came to our huilding. At first they were scared: they did not know if they would find Serbs or Albanians. Then they met one Albanian, and another, and they

felt they could find people to help them. My mother gave them water to calm them, and then tea and coffee. But still they were embarrassed to ask if they could sleep at our house. We have four families in our

small apartment now. During the whole night they stood in the window, looking in the direction of their houses, expecting to see flames. There was no burning, and last night was rather quiet: one Nato plane at 4am, and some detonations, and that was it. But police prevented them from going back to their houses today.

Tomorrow it will be a whole

from a journalist trapped in the city week since I have been able to ardy because of it. My friend

see the town, and my friends; since I have stayed in the dark. reason: he was a journalist. The only view I have of the world is the computer in front of me, which I can use until 6pm while I have electricity. I look through the curtains, hut do not pull them back.

I wonder where my friends are and all the people I knew

was killed yesterday, for one Baton [Haxiu] was the editor of Koha Ditore [the leading Kosovo newspaperl, an excellent guy. His "thing" was exclusive stories and he always knew what was up.

What hurts me the most is that I had news that he was in in this town. I am forbidden to a safe place. I sent a message do the job which I have done for to his family that he was OK, years. I know my life is in jeop- that they shouldn't worry. Now

wasn't beaten No one expected it would be this bad. Not even Baton -

though we expected retaliations. We always thought that this would happen in the villages. No one dreamed Pristi-I have decided I won't stop. I feel the need to continue, even

even though we had war, even

behind the shadow. The television screens are

is not working, hecause I vived and they might come wouldn't know what to say. I re- back one day. But what about ally hope that it was a quick us the people that remain indeath, one hullet. I hope he - side the town that has really become a camp?

people left this morning from Pristina. They have decided to escape, heading south for Macedonia. Who knows if they will be able to pass the This dispatch is from the away as they can from this

I don't feel that way yet. I

stay, they think differently. They feel that this is the price to pay for Kosovo. The only question now is who is going to make it through to the end. So Some 300 vehicles full of some pride remains. They don't what to help "them" in their wish of emptying Kosovo of the

border safely? But they are des- Balkan Crisis Reports of the perate to leave, and to be as far Institute for War & Peace Reporting, which can be found at < www.iwpr.net>. The -euthor's name is withheld to don't think about dying. I will protect against reprisals

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A THE SER M Fred Walter States

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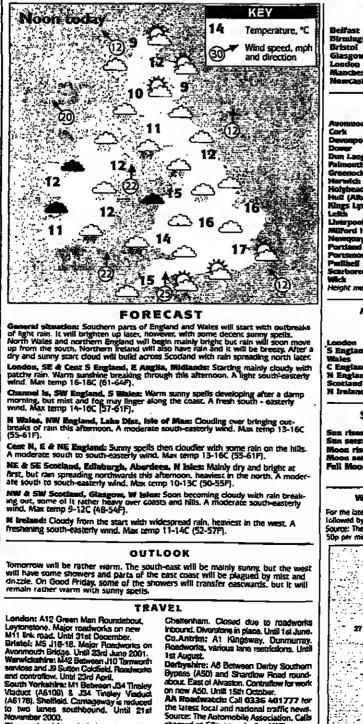
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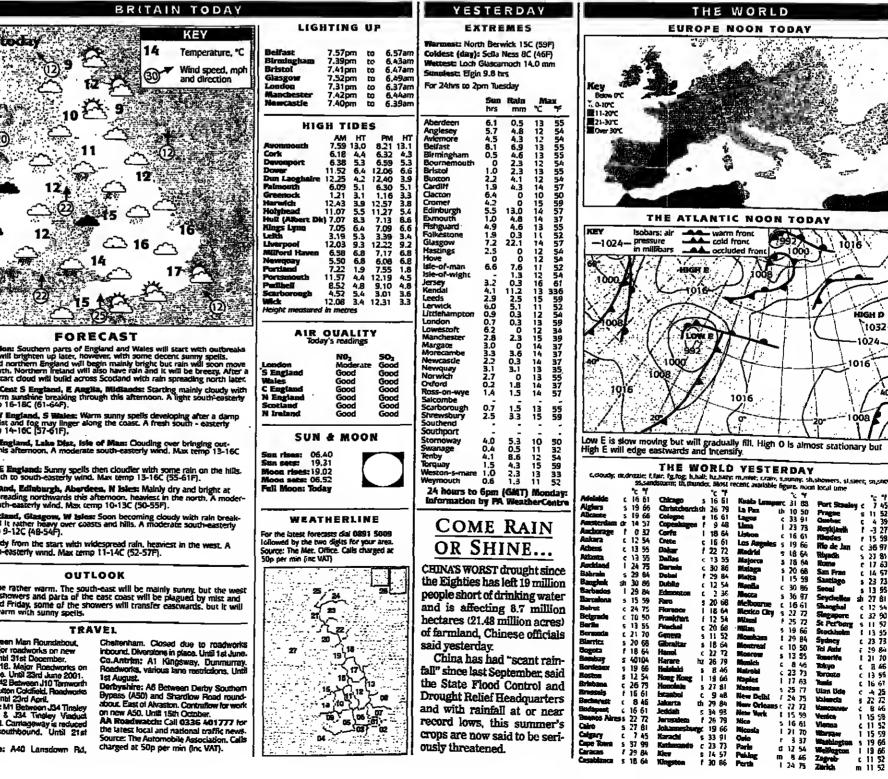
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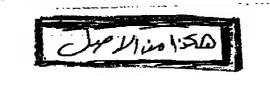
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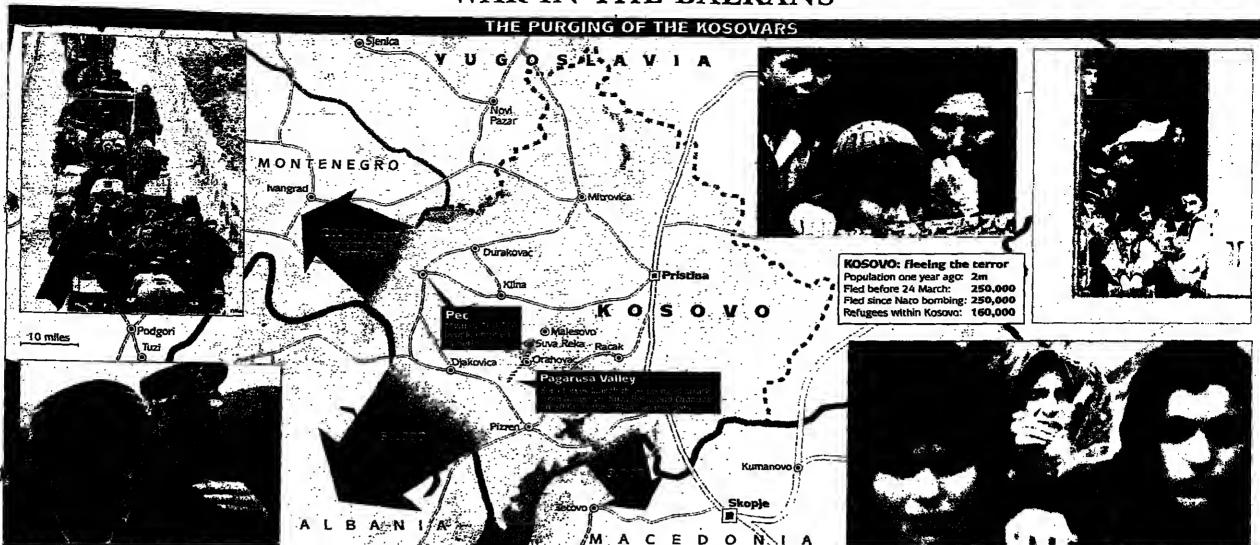


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Fleeing to the border: (clockwise from top left) Ethnic Albanians crossing into Albania; at the Montenegro border; in Skopje, Macedonia; stuck in the mountains near Macedonia, and crossing into Morina, Albania EPA/AP/Reuters Trapped in Europe's Great Terror

cities. Pec and Prizren, cleansed with brutal efficiency by the Serbs, reads like the story of the Bosnian war squared. In only a few days, one incient town has been emptied and destroyed, while in the second, the methods are slightly more restrained but the aims

are equally brutal. Yesterday the tales of horror grew worse as columns of fleeing Albanians - more than 15,000 strong - poured out of towns and cities. Survivors recounted how gun-toting Serb forces had terrorised exhausted refugees hiding in the hills. A refugee named Bardhyl Kabashi said: "The Serbs came to the hill above Celline at midday yesterday shooting in the air and telling everybody to sit face down, hands on their

heads, then forced everybody to stand up, raise their hands in the air to make the Serbian sign with three fingers ... and chant 'Serbia, Serbia'."

He said he saw one man killed for refusing to chant, while three other men were pulled away and shot from behind, "Children screamed as the shooting went on."

Similarly horrific stories were related by those fleeing the city of Pec. As they entered Albania, they accused Serb paramilitaries of conducting an orgy of burnings and killings. "There are lots of unburied

people in Pec," said Adem Basha. "The Serbs have settled in the best houses of Pec, which is now 'ethnically cleansed'. Tell the world!"

whose old city was a charming

bled streets, was sudden and extremely violent.

"I wish I had an hour to set the house on fire myself and destroy everything myself rather than have them do it," said Adnan Begiri bitterly. He was expelled from the city at gunpoint and became separated from his family in the chaos.

Dant Bojku recalled: "They came into every apartment banging on the door and shouting You have to leave now or you will be shot'."

The Serbs' reaction to the Nato bombing campaign was a little more restrained in the old city of Prizren, once with a population of 60,000 people, at least 85 per cent Albanian.

"They are trying to eliminate verything Albanian," said Lul-The order to leave Pec, jeta Cegu Sokoli, an architect expelled from her home in the THE EXODUS

BY EMMA DALY in Morini, Albania

money.

They were very correct

with us. I was on the list, with my mother and sister ... They took all our documents, even our health certificates, bank books, even our address book, every possible document."

In Pec, the more brutal expulsions were just as organised. Refugees said that Yugoslav soldiers, accompanied by police and armed Serb civilians, arrived at about 10am.

"By noon we were on trucks," said Valdet Shoshi, an

servists. "The police came to the Albanian city. "The whole our house, they had a list and town is clean now. They came they gave us two hours to leave. into town, broke into apart-They told us With Nato's first ments and took everything they attack, your citizenship was could. They were shooting inside, spraying the walls with hullets ... They even searched our pockets and took all our

> It was a bad sign that the Yugoslav Army, usually deployed on more conventional military operations, was being used to expel civilians - a task more commonly left to the brutal special police and their paramilitary allies.

In Pec, Serb citizens did not partake in the horror - "Our neighbours did not protect us, hut they did not do anything to empty-all Albanians are gone." In Prizren, the exodus has been on a lesser scale, with only a quarter of the ethnic Albanian population being ordered to leave, according to Ms Cegu Sokoli's estimate.

"In my neighbourhood they didn't order everyone to leave, just specific families," said Ms Cegu Sokoli. "But even those who are not on the list are leaving anyway, because they are

their home they saw Serb irregulars on the rampage, vandalising and looting stores. "They were wearing headbands and most had two big knives, like machetes, and hand grenades hanging from their belts, along with shoulder-fired rockets, shotguns, the usual things they have.

not burnt, hut you do see hous-es that are gutted by fire. I fear that this is a good chance for people to take revenge, so if there are fights between Serb families and Albanians, they may just go and burn houses

down," Ms Cegu Sokoli said. "During the night they spray bullets at the windows of Albanian houses. One night, they threw a hand grenade into a neighbour's shelter, knowing he had a lot of people staying in As she and her husband left his house, but luckily nobody

was hurt." Many of those who remain in Prizren are now frightened to move. "I saw at a funeral that only one small car was going, because no one else dared to go," Ms Cegu Sokoli said sadly. "We had Albanian friends who wanted to drive us to the border, but they are afraid of be-

In both cities, the Yugoslav Army has gone to ground in civilian buildings, in an attempt to avoid Nato's firepower.

"They have taken trucks owned by Albanians, loaded them with weapons and parked them in areas populated by Albanian civilians, so Nato can't hit them," Ms Cegu Sokoli said.

"I've seen tanks parked mostly in the hus station, near the graveyard, in the shoe factory, the textile factory, the hospital - places where there are covered parking spaces."

In Pec, soldiers have been dispersed from their barracks and moved into Albanian husiness premises and private homes.

There is even a story doing the rounds that the Serbs have been driving their tanks through the walls of houses to

Fatherland sees truth through a looking-glass

JUST AFTER Nato's air strikes on Yugoslavia began last week, Belgrade state television entertained its viewers with Wag the Dog. It took a genius to show at such short notice a perfect copy - equally perfectly sub-titled into Serbian - of Hollywood's fantasy about an American president who manufactures a totally artificial war in Albania to escape from rivate scandal. But no longer dio the people of Yugoslavia

have to turn to Hollywood. For to live in Belgrade just now is to see the Balkan war through a looking-glass. While BBC World and Sky TV show a war in which Kosovo Albanians suffer, Belgrade television portrays Nato's attacks as an act of international aggression against an innocent nation - Serbia - which is fighting for its life against KLA terrorism" in Kosovo.

Instead of fleeing Albanian refugees, it shows bombed-out Serb homes in Kosovo, wounded children - Albanian and gypsy as well as Serb - in a damaged Pristina hospital, and a massive haul of arms captured from Kosovo Albania guerrillas by young Yugoslav skliers, one of whom eagerly misses on his love for his mother in Subotica the moment a microphone is waved in front of his face.

Even the military briefings are a mirror-image of Nato press conferences. While RAF officers talk to journalists in Brussels, Yugoslav Air Defence Commander General Spasoje Smiljanovic invited us for a Yugoslav armed forces military assessment in Belgrade. In a massive room dripping with chandeliers and decorated with two gold twin-headed eagles of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the general was even equipped with a Aide projector to illustrate Nato hir strikes and those countries involved in the "aggression" against Yugoslavia. A map showed guilty nations coloured in purple, the innocent - and Russia of course, is a very big innocent - in white.

THE PROPAGANDA WAR

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

off the codenames of Nato jets involved in the air bombard-Nato commander: F-15s. F-16s. F-18s, EAGD "Prowlers", A-10s, E3-Awacs, Mirages, Tornados, Harriers and B-52s. When America's downed F-117A "Stealth" fighter-bomber comes up on the big screen, the general is in top form. "It flew from New Mexico to come to rest on Serb territory," he says sarcastically. "Such a pity! If it had come as a friend, it would still be flying." He insists that

Fisk wins award for

ROBERT FISK, our Middle East

Orweli Prize for outstanding

the award, which recognises

correspondent, was awarded the

journalism last night. The judges of

contributions to the art of political

the aftermath of the Gulf War, in

and impassioned humanitarian

"minimal losses" among its

air-raid personnel - just seven

soldiers killed and 17 wounded

(a lower figure than the week-

end's) - while admitting "sev-

ere damage to stationary

While Western television

viewers were watching ex-

hausted Kosovo Albanian

refugees talking of Serb execu-

tions and "ethnic cleansing",

their Serb counterparts were

facilities and infrastructure"

costing \$300m (£183m).

particular its consequences for the

children of iraq, formed a sustained

writing, said of Flsk: "His report on

outstanding journalism

campaign. Moved by his powerful writing, readers of The

David McKittrick, our Ireland correspondent, was also

shortlisted for the award, which is presented annually in

the memory of George Orwell. Fisk recently received the

Yugoslavia has sustained The film report - and the arms

Independent sent in £100,000 for the underfunded

nospitals where these children lay sick and dying".

London Press Club award for outstanding reporting.

General Smiljanovic reels tal in Pristina reported to have been bombed by Nato and a damaged maternity ward in ment with all the panache of a which 51 babies were reportedly rescued from incubators as the air attacks began. Film at a different clinic showed children. said to be Albanian as well as Serb. with stomach wounds.

> Third item on the national news here in the past 24 hours was a dramatic report of a Yugoslav interception of Albanian "terrorists" carrying weapons into Kosovo, 13 of whom had been killed, the remainder having fled back across the border.

-appeared to be new; they incl-

uded a large number of anti-

Austrian manufacture. The

viewers were told, and dozens

church and monastery.

military positions immediately they had been targeted by Nato. Clearly, there have been Serb civilian casualties. Yesterday, for example, Care Australia reported that nine Serb refugees from Krajina, captured by Croatian forces more than four years ago, had been killed in Cacak, 85 miles from Beigrade, where they had been living in an abandoned barracks attacked by Nato.

KLA "terrorists" had attacked

General Smilianovic insisted that Yugoslav air defence forces had shot down seven Nato aircraft - Nato says it has lost only one - and three helicopters, more than 30 cruise missiles and three pilotless drone recommaissance aircraft.

Nato denies the helicopters although it has made no comment about lost drones or missiles destroyed by ground fire. The general went out of his way to praise his MiG-29 pilots. And indeed, yesterday's issue of Soldier magazine - the journal of the Yugoslav armed forces - shows that Serb and Montenegrin pilots are praised as much here as Nato's warriors of the air are on BBC World Four MiG pilots were promoted by President Slobodan Milosevic, and a medal of honour went to two senior officers for defending "the Father-

land's airspace". So much for the gongs. In reality, Yugoslavia has shrewdly kept most of its mobile antiaircraft missile defences intact. keeping them deactivated and moving them around to avoid Nato target positioning. Whenever air-raid alerts suggest a threat to MIG airfields, Yugoarmour weapons, apparently of slav jets are scrambled, either returning to their air bases Kosovo town of Djakovica had after the alert or, if their airbeen attacked by Nato forces, fields are damaged, landing on the great highways that Tito of civilian houses damaged as 'built for just such a purpose well as the town's Catholic more than 20 years ago.

In other words, despite all Serbs were outraged to be the Nato bombing, the Yugtold that the Serb village of oslav armed forces are far Gracanica had been almost from down and out Just who, totally destroyed by Nato one wonders here these days, seeing a badly damaged hospi- bombs. Other reports said that is wagging the dog?





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Relief operation trundles into action



Refugees from Kosovo waiting for bread to be distributed from an aid truck in the Albanian town of Kukes yesterday

HUMANITARIAN AID

By Frances Kennedy in Puglia

relief operation got under way at dawn yesterday as 30 trucktrailers rolled off the Italian warship San Marco at the Albanian port of Durres. They were followed by 40 buses, 5,000 tents, 50,000 sleeping bags, 50 toilets as well as camp kitchens, food and medical supplies.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said it had held an emergency meeting yesterday with aid providers and had urged them to make direct donations to the countries taking in the refugees - Albania, Macedonia and the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro - concentrating on shelter, transport and medical assistance. An \$8.5m (£5.3m) pledge had been re-ceived from the United States over the weekend.

Britain has provided a transport plane to airlift tents and blankets to Albania, UNHCR said yesterday. The plane will shuttle between various desti-

supplies to be distributed by the UNHCR emergency team.

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, said yesterday that the situation in Kosovo had deteriorated rapidly over the last 24 hours and it was clear substantial further assistance was needed. UNHCR had sufficient supplies of tents and blankets. she said, but they needed to be moved very quickly to where people are.

The World Food Programme also said it had enough food but needed logistical support to get it to the people. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced on Monday that Britain was making £10m available as an initial response to the crisis.

In the space of two days, 170 Italian military personnel, working with Italian and foreign aid workers, should be able provide shelter for some 20,000 refugees. Thirty eight buses, donated by Italian city transport authorities, will ensure the transport of exhausted families crossing the border into Albania to camps that are being established by the UNHCR in other parts of the country.

Initial reports that the naval vessel San Marco, which could comfortably carry 2,000 people. would return with a load of refugees, have been dismissed by the Defence Ministry. The

THE EUROPEAN humanitarian nations and Albania with more to Bari to load more relief supplies. Its sister ship, the San Giorgio, may also be deployed to transport further goods.

Italy's Interior Minister. Rosa Russo Jervolino, vesterday led an Italian delegation visiting the Albanian town of Kukes to see first-hand what is needed. Ms Jervolino reiterated that the request from the Albanian authorities was for assistance to be sent there, rather than the dispatch of refugees to Italy and other European countries. But she added that if it became necessary for refugees to be evacuated they would not be left at the mercy of the criminal gangs who charge \$1,000 to ferry migrants across the Strait of Otranto.

There are contingency plans should the flow of refugees prove so large that it cannot be dealt with in Albania or Macedonia. At a disused runway near Bari airport, still closed to civilian traffic, 500 caravans have been allocated for use and a further 500 are available at a former Nato facility near Foggia, 60 miles to the north.

Although the Italians have kick-started the operation, they are hoping it will be a combined European effort. In addition, the Amsterdam Treaty, which comes in to effect in May, binds EU members to sharing the social and financial costs of any

Cook: We won't fight our way in

WESTMINSTER

By COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

KOSOVAR ALBANIANS yester- Democrat leader, wrote to the tary, Robin Cook, not to allow their people to face the marauding Serbs empty handed. to use ground forces.

The Foreign Secretary later ruled out the possibility of Nato arming the Kosovo Liberation Army, but he did appear yesterday on the same platform as the KLA's external representative, Barhyl Mahmutlas.

In an emotional appeal for more help from Nato a former journalist in Kosovo, Hamide been no change of policy in favour of sending in troops, but he appeared to leave the sage to British mothers and sisters. I hear voices - why should mit ground forces to guarantee my son go and fight there?

We don't ask British mothers to send their sons, we are ready to fight," she said. "We are old people, we are young people - we have people but we have empty hands. With hands in pockets you cannot fight mil-

itary which is so sophisticated." Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal

day begged the Foreign Secre- Prime Minister last night calling on Britain and the Nato allies to start preparing plans

"I believe that Nato leaders seriously underestimate the public will in this matter. Even if you are not prepared at present to commit yourself to the use of ground troops, I beg you not to exclude the possibility,' Mr Ashdown told Tony Blair.

Mr Cook insisted there had possibility open. "We will coma ceasefire hut not to fight

But he added that in the Gulf war, there was a seven week air campaign before ground troops were sent in. "It is not our intention to put in ground troops. Even if it was, we would be doing exactly what we are doing from the air now."



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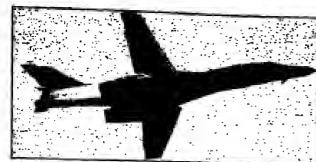
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The US B1B long-range heavy bomber

Bomber delivers new type of 'smart' weapon

NATO WEAPONRY

weapon yesterday in its fight against Yugoslav forces in Kosovo - a devastating bombing system that can operate accurately in bad weather and which gives no warning to the forces that it is attacking

Designed specifically for use against tanks and mobile artillery, the bomb is guided to its riers'. On Friday and Saturday, target by a Global Positioning no manned missions were com-Satellite (GPS) navigation system. Unlike the other "smart" weapons used so far in Operation Allied Force, in the Gulf War or in Operation Desert Fox against Iraq, it does not need clear weather to work.

The system is carried on the US BIB long-range heavy bomber, four of which were yesterday on their way to the Balkans region from bases in different parts of the United States. The system has never before been used in combat, but proved accurate to within 10m (33 feet) of a target in trials two

Bad weather has dogged the

NATO DEPLOYED a new Nato air campaign, leading to the abortion of hundreds of missions because the aircraft could not be sure of dropping their weapons accurately. The risk of causing civilian casualties in those circumstances was considered too high. On Monday, many missions were again cancelled, including BAF Har-

pleted by any allied aircraft. Even the much-vaunted US A-10 "Warthog" anti-tank planes, which have been reported in action over the past two days, require good weather.

While Nato spokesmen are upbeat about the capabilities of cruise missiles, which are also aimed using GPS technology the inability to fly so many

the campaign and left Serbian tanks and artillery in Kosovo free to roam and kill at will.

The experience of the RAF Harriers based in Italy has been particularly frustrating. Of the six nights of the campaign so far, they have flown on only two sorties when their laserguided bombs have been dropped successfully.

General Sir Charles Guthrie.

Chief of the Defence Staff, said: We are determined, and the pilots are absolutely determined, to avoid civilian casualties if humanly possible."

Laser, infra-red or optical (TV) guidance systems need a clear sight of the target for about 90 seconds to work properly If it is even temporarily obscured by cloud or smoke, the system could fail to "lock on".

The Paveway II laser-guided tain lock," said Wing Cdr Ken bombs, which are being used by the Harriers, in effect travel

down a beam to the target from heights of 4,000 to 5,000 metres. If the beam is broken at any time, there is a risk of dropping the bomb in the wrong place. "Because of the fear of collateral damage, the pilot has got to be absolutely

Petrie, a defence analyst. Using GPS, however, mobile targets can be picked up and tracked by radar in Awacs

or other surveillance aircraft, even in zero visibility. The bombs are designed to explode 10 to 15 metres above the ground, spreading the armourpiercing fragmentation warhead over a wide area. Any tanks, guns or armoured personnel carriers in that range would be destroyed, the theory goes. Also, as the aircraft fly at 8.5km to 10km, they can attack with much less risk than even Harrier pilots. "The other advantage of By-

ing at those kinds of heights is the enemy gets no warning. The first thing they know about it is when this armour-piercing metal is flying around their ears and in their tanks," said Air Vice-Marshal Tony Mason."This is not the answer to Milosovic, this is not going to end the war in 24

TIMETABLE

MONDAY 29 MARCH

5.50pm: Nato fighter jets start to take off from Aviano alr base for sixth night in a row. They are accompanied by two A-10 tank-busters, an Awacs early warning plane and a C-130 transport aircraft. 6.50pm: Air raid sirens start to sound. Explosions are heard just north of Belgrade near chemical factories and army installations. 10.30pm; US announces it is beefing up its air power over Yugoslavia, sending additional B1-B bombers. five EA-6B Prowler aircraft

TUESDAY 30 MARCH

and also more tankers.

4.30am: Aid agency Care Australia reports that nine people have been killed by Nato bombs dropped on Yugoslav military targets. They say the bombs also damaged two of its refugee centres housing women and children. 5.15am: The Ministry of Defence dismisses Serbian claims that an RAF Harrier let has been shot down over Montenegro. 8.30am: Russian Prime Minister, Yevgeny Primakov. arrives in Belgrade to try to end the attacks. 8.45am; MoD says six Harrier ground attack jets abandoned an overnight rald due to bad weather. 12.00: Reports emerge that Serbian forces backed by armour and artillery have launched an attack on a valley in central Kosovo where 50,000 ethnic Albanian refugees are believed to be sheltering. 12.30pm: Kosovo's main border post with Albania. through which refugees have flooded in recent days, reopens after being shut for 14 hours by Yugoslav guards. 1.30pm: Reports emerge

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flames. 2.00pm: Primakov-Milosevic talks end 3.00pm: Air raid sirens sound in Belgrade 5.30pm: Mr Primakov arrives in Bonn to discuss Kosovo with Chancellor

of Serblan forces attacking

ethnic Albanian districts of

Pristina. Parts of the city

are reported to be in



An image from Serb TV showing the ruins of a factory in the Serbian town of Cacak, which the Serbs say was hit by four Nato missiles AP

TERRAIN OFFERS CLUE AS TO WHY JET CAME DOWN conducting their Investi-"It felt like a knife technology was developed Yugoslavia that has made through the stomach," was the difference. Flying over in the Seventies. Certainly it is important the reaction of one engineer During the Gulf war the this mountainous landscape, from the aircraft's design aircraft flew more than where targets are easily

programme when he heard

the news. The US has spent

developing this aircraft, the

So did it "malfunction" or was it shot down? The question of what caused a F-117A Nighthawk "Stealth" fighter to fall from the sky over Serbla on Saturday night has still to

be conclusively answered. Despite the fact that the pilot, who should know a few things about what happened, was rescued within hours. Pentagon

to get the answer right. If it was because of a broken part, pilot error or a lucky shot from anti-aircraft gunners, then there is not too much of a problem. But if it meant that the stealth technology didn't work. then a lot of people are going to go back to a lot of

B-2 bomber and a new generation of fighters. Other experts said that it was a surprise that the secret had lasted so long.

a total of \$50bn on

flat desert terrain, similar to that of the Nevada desert

where it was designed. Some experts feel it

1.200 sorties without a

by Iraqi fire, a feat that

even amazed air force

single plane being damaged

chiefs. But that was over a

turn increases the aircraft's radar profile by 100 times, sources say.

Even a standard banking

concealed, it is likely the

out manoeuvres which

could seriously affect its

"stealth" characteristics.

planes would have to carry

Obstacles to ground force are political and physical

LAND OFFENSIVE

AS THE world is confronted with its mability to prevent the "ethnic cleansing" and murder of thousands of Kosovo Albanians, demands for Nato to send in ground troops are getting louder. But, leaving aside the constant assurances in recent weeks that Nato would never fight its way into Kosovo, any reversal of strategy is likely to encounter huge physical and political obstacles.

Critics of the present strategy of attacking Serbia only from the air argue that soon there will not be a single Albanian left alive in the province, and that the 12,000-strong Nato troops in Macedonia, sent as the advance party of a peacekeeping force, should move into Kosovo immediately. But military strategists say if they had to fight their way in, it would take a heavily armoured force many times bigger.

There are believed to be about 40,000 Serbian troops in Kosovo, to say nothing of possible reinforcements not far away," said Phillip Mitchell, ground forces specialist at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). "The rule of thumb is that an invading force should outnumber the defenders by three to one. Even if Nato took the decision to assemble such a force today. I estimate it couldn't be done in less than four to six weeks."

It might theoretically be possible to fly 100,000 troops into the region, but it would be suicidal for them to go into Kosovo without the kind of heavy weapoury that in practical terms can be transported only

Britain currently has a reinforced armoured battle group and headquarters of 4,800 troops from 4th Armoured Brigade in Macedonia If the peace talks in France had succeeded, a second battle group would have been added, bringing the British contribution up



to 8,000. Fully deployed, they would have had 30 Challenger tanks, 40 Warrior fighting vehicles and 12 AS-90 155mm heavy, self-propelled guns. This was planned to be the largest

contingent in the 28,000-strong Nato peace-keeping force under British command. Even to assemble a force of that size would take another two weeks, however. The remaining battle group is on 72hour stand-by in Germany, but it would take at least 10 days to transport its heavy equipment by sea to the region through

Contrast this with Britain's contribution to the allied force that fought in the Gulf eight years ago. At its peak, it had a reinforced division in the field, consisting of 40,000 troops, some 200 battle tanks, over 90 artillery pieces and at least 18 attack helicopters. Just to get their basic equipment there took three or four weeks," said Mr Mitchell Even then, Britain had to beg and borrow men and equipment from almost every corner of the military, with the

cuts the armed forces have undergone since then, it would be impossible to muster a force of that size today.

Assembling an armoured division strong enough to fight the Serbs would inevitably require the US to take the lead - unlikely, given the degree of opposition in Congress. Macedonia and Greece were uncomfortable enough hosting the peace-keeping force of 28,000, and would probably face insurmountable political difficulties if they were asked to allow a much bigger invasion army to gather on their soil.

Then there are the logistical difficulties. "Port facilities were much better in Saudi Arabia," said Mr Mitchell, "and it took months to get all the pieces for Desert Storm in place. You would need almost as big a force here, and Salonica, through which all the heavy equipment now in Macedonia was shipped, could not cope." Albania would have far fewer

res, is even less adequate for the task, according to another USS expert. "Nor is that the end of the matter," said Mr Mitchell. "You need all-weather roads capable of carrying heavy armour and Albania doesn't have

Even if all these difficulties could be overcome, there are few routes through the mountains that ring Kosovo. The main roads into the province from both Macedonia and Albania run through narrow gorges and are punctuated by tunnels and bridges. Preventing the Serbian forces from blocking them would be a major military operation in itself.

Mr Mitchell gave short shrift to the idea of an airborne assault on Kosovo. "It might be possible to drop large numbers of men with some light armour and artillery into the province," he said, "but unless they were ioined within two to three days by a mechanised, armoured force, they would be defencepolitical qualms about being the less." Not quite as defencejumping-off point for an invasion force, but its best port, Dur- still in Kosovo.

After dinner we cleaned up.

At the Royal Television Society Programme Awards, the BBC swept the board-winning no fewer than 18 out of 25 awards. It's a well deserved tribute to the many people responsible.

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Single Documentary Actor-Male

Regional Documentary

Regional Programme Features - Daytime

Winners

Jonathan Creek (BBC) A Bather English Marrison (Wall To Wall Television)

winter Hibbert Ralph Entertainment)

Davids of England (BBC)

Davids of Grough - Life of Birds (BBC)

Noel The Carbon (BBC Northern Ireland)

The Name of World (BBC)

Danien Commell - Thirty Five Aside (Clingfilm Productions) Windrush (Papper Productions for BBC Education)

Drinking For England - Modern Times (Century Films) Ray Winstone - Our Boy (Wall To Wall Television) Thora Hird Talking Heads:

Waiting For The Telegram (Slow Motion) Put To The Tan Brian Waddell BBC Northern Ireland)

A Light in T alley (BBC Wales) City Hosp (Topical Television) Good ass Gracious Me (BBC)

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'Glimmers of hope' after Ulster talks

mystery about an early-

getting this far by finding solu-

tions with which all sides can

live. I think we have to do the

same thing with the present im-

passe, and we don't have very

Mr Blair and Mr Ahern were

heckled by loyalists as they

made their way to the large

A couple of republicans en-

agitprop, meanwhile, by climb-

Unionist hero Sir Edward Car-

son, which dominates the Stor-

mont grounds, and hoisting a

tricolour. A furious Ian Paisley

demanded that police take

them away, and they eventual-

In the afternoon, the action

ly climbed down.

much time to do it."

HOPES FOR real progress in the crucial Northern Ireland political talks remained alive last ight after a day of intensive talks involving Tony Blair, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and

Some of those involved spoke of glimmers of hope and a sense that movement was possible from both the repubcans and the Unionists who have for so many months heen locked in the impasse over arms decommissioning.

They did not, however, pre-

the two prime ministers held talks centring on the Ulster Ireland Correspondent Unionist party leader, David Trimble, the Sinn Fein presidict any early or easy breakdent, Gerry Adams, and the SDLP leader, John Hume. through that might satisfy both constituencies, and there was

ern Ireland Office said: "They afternoon report that said a setare not wasting their time. tlement was on the cards. The sense of optimism fluc-Therefore there must be some movement, but it remains diftuated throughout the day, with some high morning hopes dimficult. There are glimmers of ming as the afternoon wore on. hope. Equally there is a lot of At the same time, there was a hard work to be done, but there growing sense that all sides were engaged in a serious a big gap to be closed." search for a settlement of the In addition to the straight po

long-running issue. litical meetings, Mr Blair held Publicly, though, republicans several meetings with representatives of Portadown's Garand Unionists gave no overt inklings of major changes in vaghy Road residents and leaders of the Orange Order their positions, the former saywho have been involved in the ing the IRA was not about to Drumcree marching stand-off. give up weapons, while the later maintained that no new ex-Mr Trimble said: "We are ecutive would be formed if they conscious of the historic op-

portunities that exist here. The One of the most upbeat asquestion is whether the parasessments came from the Irish military parties have the will to Foreign Minister, David Angrasp this historic opportunity to implement this agreement in drews, who said: "Altogether the atmosphere is one of friendits entirety. liness and a wish for a solution "The choice lies with those to this terribly, terribly difficult problem. We have succeeded in

who have yet to carry out their side of the bargain. We have done all we can do." In a symbolic visit to a reli-

A senior official at the North-

glously integrated school in north Belfast, Mr Blair declared: "I will not stop or rest until this thing is done. Without trust between the parties, this Agreement isn't going to work, but I believe we can get there."

helicopter parked, symbolical-ly, on the lawn right in front of Mitchel McLaughlin, said he was encouraged everybody was working collectively to gaged in their own version of resolve the impasse. "I have noticed spokespersons talking ing the large statue of the in terms of the 'D' [decommissioning] word as an issue which will be resolved by voluntary action - a much more pragmatic and sensible approach - and I would hope that all of the parties can get behind that kind of common sense and systemic addressing

moved from Stormont to the ba-ronial splendour of Hillsborof the problems.". Anne McEivoy. ough Castle in Co Down, where Review, page 3

IN BRIEF

Woman held in Irish murder hunt

IRISH POLICE were questioning a woman in Dublin last

night about the murder of the Sunday Independent journalist, Veronica Guerin, in Dublin in 1996. Paul Ward, 35, from Dublin, was convicted of Ms Guerin's murder last

year. Brian Meehan faces a murder trial later this year.

THE Old Bailey jury trying a former British Rail worker in

the UK's first full war crimes trial failed to reach a verdict

yesterday and will continue deliberations today. Anthony

Sawoniuk, 78, from Bermondsey, south-east London, has

denied two charges of murdering Jewish women in 1942.

£3m claim in food poisoning case

MORE THAN 600 food poisoning victims, who are taking the largest group action against a major tour operator,

damages. Sunworld has already accepted responsibility for the families who stayed in Majorca last year.

PEOPLE WERE warned to beware of low-flying peacocks

in search of a love nest. Keepers at Dudley Zoo in the

Midlands said the hirds were likely to leave the zoo to

mate on nearby streets. "It does give people a bit of a shock when they see one wandering down their street."

Vimto's secret kept under wraps

THE SECRET recipe for Vimto, one of Britain's best-loved

drinks, was on the move yesterday under police guard to new premises near Wigan, Greater Manchester.

The Prime Minister will

stamped on his heart

N THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

have Belfast and Belgrade

ANNE MCELVOY

have issued a High Court writ claiming up to £3m in

Warning over urban peacocks

War crimes jury undecided

issues of arms

four years it has produced serious confrontations at Drumcree near Portadown. Co Armagh. Although last year's protest at the decision of the authorities to ban the march petered out after . killed in a loyalist petrol-

HURDLES TO

OVERCOME ONE REASON Tony Blair and almost everyone is

bomb attack, the Portadown Orange lodge appears determined to get through this year, Sporadic protests have

continued and Catholic-Protestant relations in the area hav reached levels of bitterness

unusual even by Northern Ireland standards. Efforts to defuse the tension received a severe setback with this month's assassination of Rosemary Nelson (above), the local a loyalist car bomb, The Orange Order cannot be confident of the same widespread support as last year if it mounts protests again this year. but the depth of local feeling is such that Drumcree is almost certain to become a flashpoint yet again. A major political test is also looming in the European elections in June. The Rev lan Paisley, leader of the Democratic

Unionists, traditionally tops the poll in these, Hume, of the and a representativ of the Ulster Unionists

taking the third seat. The Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble (above) has a two-fold problem. Mr Paisley (below) is intent on turning the contest into a second referendum on the Good Friday Agreement while the Ulster Unionist candidate, Jim Nicholson, could be weakened by his recent admission of an extramarital affair. If the tide of Unionist opinion flows against the Agreement, and if the conservative electorate punishes Mr Nicholson, Mr Paisley could surge ahead. Later in the summer, the former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten is

due to deliver a far-reaching report on the future of policing in Northern Ireland. Whatever the

report contains it will become the focus of a fierce debate, with Unionists attempting to protect the Royal Ulster Constabulary while nationalists seek fundamental changes. The policing issue, always a sensitive one, has been made thornier still by the death of Mrs Nelson and the revelation that RUC officers appeared to be dismissive and obstructive during an earlier investigation of her complaints that she had been threatened by police. In sum this timetable suggests that whether or not a breakthrough is made this week the summer will once again

DAVID MCKITTRICK

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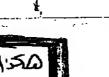
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be a potentially combustible season in Northern Ireland.

Bulger

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were not given a fair trial. Dr Eileen Vizard, a consultant child psychiatrist who evalnated Robert Thompson, one of the children convicted, said the atmosphere at their trial was so intimidating that it prevented the children from being able to understand what was happening or to participate in the trial effectively.

out in support of this month's

She said a charge of manslaughter would have probably been more suitable.

Speaking about the Bulger case, at a conference on violence last week, she said: "It is obvious that very young children couldn't feel in any way at ease. It was extremely intimidating and one really would have to question the true capacity of children in that context to plead their case, to instruct their solicitors and to really understand what the implications of the trial were."

Earlier this month, the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg, said that the procedures used to convict Jon Venables and Robert Thompson were a violation of their rights. Venables and Thompson, aged 10 when they killed two-year-old James Bulger in 1993, were tried in an adult court and then detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

The commission said that the trial of the two boys at Preston Crown Court placed them ances of the case and why it is in a "highly charged atmos- all coming out again," he said.

Social Affairs Correspondent

phere". It rejected claims that European ruling that the killers the court case amounted to "inhuman and degrading treat-ment", but agreed that they had been prevented from partic-Article Six of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Dr Vizard said her assessment report on Thompson was not used in the trial because it was deemed to be "unhelpful". "In practical terms the ques-

tions which I was asked in relation to the Bulger case were extremely constrained and didn't allow for any development of the psychiatric evidence. They were very tightly focused questions around the defendants' capacity to understand that the events were seriously wrong," she said.

which has been referred to the European Court of Human Rights, could force Britain to change the way young children are tried for serious crimes. Normally children below the age of 18 are tried in a youth court. If the trials are for murder, manslaughter or other offences carrying senthe child is tried in Crown Court if older than 10.

Rex Makin, the solicitor who acted for James's father, said that the re-evaluation of the case was "dreadful" for the Bulger family, "It is difficult for them to understand all the nu-

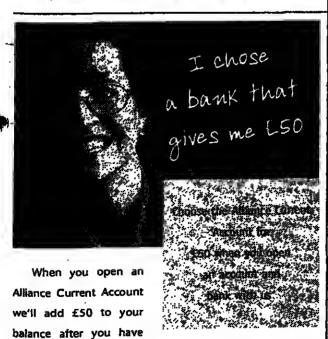
Mugged tourist dies after fall from bus

A TOURIST who was mugged wo hours after arriving in Britain died yesterday from injuries she suffered during

The 49-year-old Swedish handbag from a double-decker bus in central London on Saturday afternoon. The woman, who was on holiday with her 13year-old son and former husto the pavement. The family ed a murder inquiry.

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

were about to alight from the bus in Kensington Gore, near the Albert Hall, when the attacker woman was dragged by her grabbed the woman's handbag, which she was carrying strapped across her body. As he jumped from the moving bus, the woman fell to the road, striking her head. The attacker escaped band, banged her head as she fell in a black cab. Police have start-



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Stars recall Little Ern's big contribution



Mourners at the funeral of Ernie Wise yesterday reflected on his comic genius

straight man in Britain's most famous comedy double act, finally gained centre stage

Celebrities turned out at a crematorium in Slough, Berkshire, to pay tribute to "Little Ern", who was famous for being the "short, fat, hairy legs" - and not a lot else - of Morecambe and Wise. The comedian died earlier this month aged 73, after a heart operation.

But yesterday, the son of a railway porter who started in showbusiness at 13 as a clog dancer was lauded for his own comic genius. There had been too much concentration on Eric Morecambe's contribution, said the former Channel 4 chief executive Michael Grade, delivering the funeral oration.

"Let us be clear. They were equal partners in the comic genius department," he said. Together, he said, they cre-

ated a "comic chemistry that can only be explained as a divine process". Each was vital to the other. "Morecambe without Wise? It's unthinkable. Like trying to create a table without legs, short, fat, hairy or not."

newsreader who became a star after dancing on a Morecambe and Wise Christmas show, said: "Ernie was such a very generous, kind man. You have to be generous to be a straight man to a comedian like Eric Morecambe, who always gets the

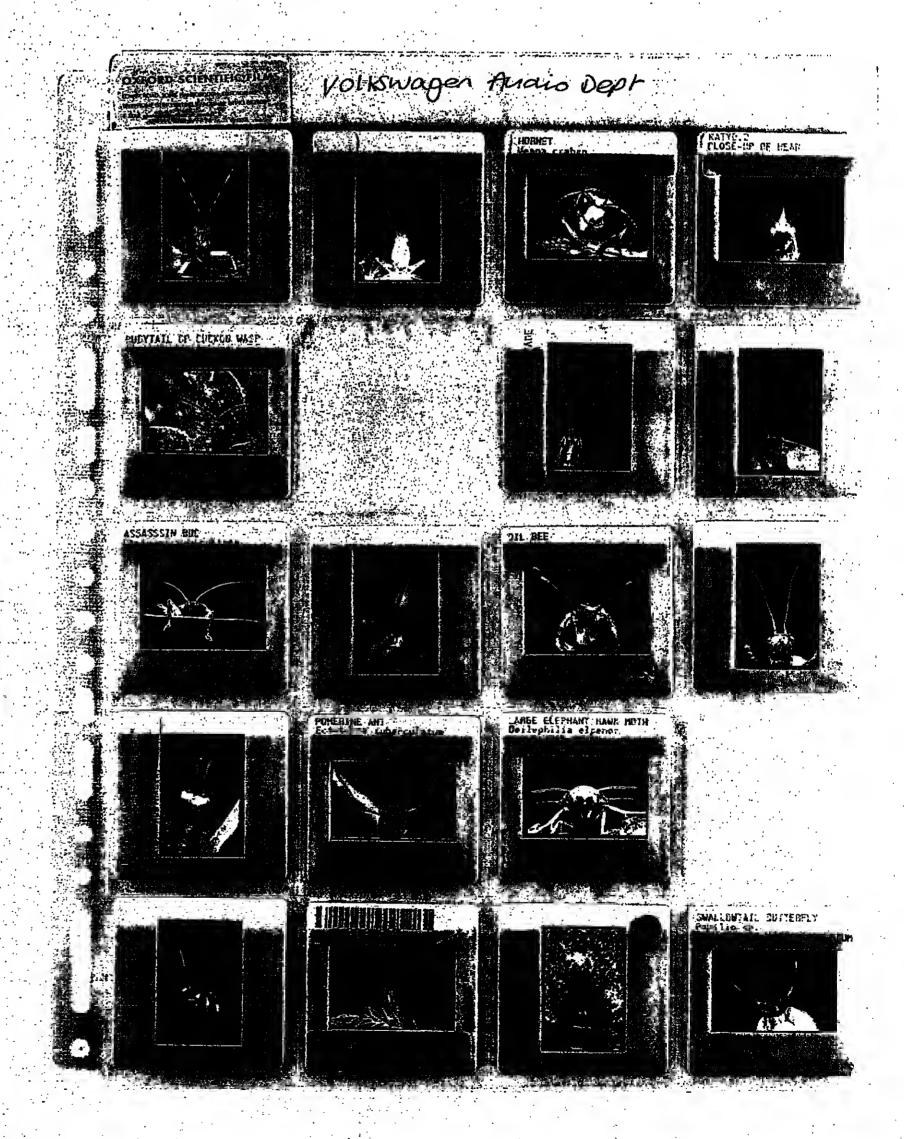
laughs." Also among the mourners were Rolf Harris, Wendy Craig and the comedian Tom O'Connor. The television presenter Michael Barratt said: "My one regret is that I did not appear on the show. It was the ultimate accolade in Britain at the time."

The tone of the funeral was of a passing era. Even the autograph hunters were in their 70s. Teddy Johnson, runner-up with Pearl Carr in the 1959 Eurovision Song Contest, sang Ernie Wise's favourite song - Henry Manci-ni's "Shadow of Your Smile".

Joan Morecambe, Eric's widow, stood alongside Doreen, Ernie's widow, reading messages on the floral tributes. "Eric and Ernie formed one of the most perfect friendships said Mrs Morecambe. "I don't

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et to



Even aur radio antennae are designed to reduce wind resistance. Passat. German for detail



Quavering swansong of an ancient and doomed species

TORY MPs had fun yesterday with Jack Cunningham's statement on Deaths) and spluttered at the Idea terday it was taken up again, 180 Modernising Government, yocking with increasingly noisy contempt as the Minister for the Cabinet Office doggedly worked his way through his speech - one of those hullet-pointed mission statements that should ideally be presented with the help of a flipchart and an Innovations cata-

logue laser pointer. They hooted at his promise to create government that was "joined-up and responsive", giggled at the phrases "one-stop-shop" and "common-life-episodes" (the latter presumably being consultant- about modernisation that followed probably take the view that evolu-

ing Labs". But the higgest ironic cheer was reserved for Mr Cunningham's pledge to develop government for the information age.

dealings with government will be of universal suffrage. Lord Inglecapable of electronic delivery.

This did contain one substantive

House of Lords: Lord Lucas, a young hereditary, making a last bid for modernity with a question about may put him at odds with more trae-mail. The more significant debate ditional-minded colleagues, who

of civil servants attending "Learn- peers queuing to make their swan song - or, alternatively, to put the case for culling the swans.

One feels that some embattled hereditaries may not have caught up with e-mail yet, still struggling promise: by 2008, 100 per cent of as they are to digest the enormities wood, speaking against the Gov-By chance, this answered a ernment, was prepared to define his question asked on Monday in the Conservatism yesterday as a preference for "evolutionary rather than revolutionary change". This



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

tion itself was recklessly precipitous in its methods. You can imagine them solemnly convened up a tree,

surrender our prehensile tails," says one ancient silver-back, "hut what is to replace them? We have not been told!" His fellows then hreak off from mutual grooming to mutter that swinging from branch to branch had served the community well for hundreds of years, so why change now?

If we are to believe the generality of speeches in the House, the hereditaries are paragons of selfless duty. The attribution of merit is undoubtedly deserved in some cases (though I would have thought that the allocation of 92 spaces will com-

for the semi-skimmed). But not many speakers mention that the sense of service was accompanied by a comfortable living and a hefty wedge of unaccountable power. And when they do, it is only because they wish to claim it as just one more asset. Because the hereditaries "have no ladder to climb", they can't be compromised; because they owe their position to no party.

they can speak free of inhibition. This isn't by any means the most perverse defence of their privilege. Lord Malmesbury, a man so venerable that you wouldn't dare to their swords with dignity.

cootemplating the possibility of bi-pedalism. "We have been urged to la crème with a few seats left over ed, quavered: "It would be difficult la crème with a few seats left over for a nominated House to produce the youth we get here."

Such speeches were best answered by Lord Shore of Stepney, who pointed out that the cause notionally espoused by the hereditaries - that of protecting an effective second chamber - would be best served by their departure, since the Commons would no longer be able to dismiss its contradictions as the hray of embedded privilege. If duty and sacrifice is their prime mover, they should be consoled. They have one last service to perform by falling on

Peers angry as **Irvine warns** against delay

PROSPECTS OF any consensus LORDS' REFORM over House of Lords reform diminished last night as peers grew more hostile to the Government's plans to scrap the voting rights of hereditaries.

Their anger was fuelled after the Lord Chancellor gave the bluntest warning so far that any commitment so clear and firm, attempts to alter or delay the House of Lords Bill would breach the deal to retain 91 hereditaries in the interim period of reform.

Irvine of Lairg said the socalled "Weatherill" compromise would allow the rest "to depart with dignity".

But he stressed ministers would not agree on a greater number of hereditaries staying, and would not hesitate to invoke the Parliament Act, allowing the Commons to override the peers, to carry out its plans.

"Changes will not be accepted either here, or in the Commons," said the Lord Chancellor. "Nor will the Government tolerate any material disruption of its legislative programme, through exchanges of need be, oppose it altogether." the upper House.

By Sarah Schaefer

Political Reporter

messages between both Houses signifying continuing disagreement, or by any other means, when it has a manifesto and so strong a popular endorsement for its manifesto."

But peers made their intention to delay the Bill clear, when Lord Pearson of Ran-Opening the last day on the noch, a Tory life peer, dismissed Bill's second reading, Lord the Lord Chancellor's comments as "threatening and unpleasant".

Referring to peers' constitutional convention not to wreck legislation set out in the governing party's manifesto, he said: "I do not believe that the Salisbury Convention was designed to facilitate the destruction of this House."

Similarly, Lord Kingsland, speaking for the Tories, said they reserved the right to amend and vote against the Bill: "We will courageously vote for amendments to this Bill and, if

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PRE-

PAYMENT

Lord Weatherill insisted his compromise was "a genuine attempt to balance the principle and right of the Government to carry out its manifesto commitment and the rights equally of the Opposition parties".

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour prime minister, insisted: "I cannot see, trying to work through the programme, that we can introduce a reform measure until after the general election."

Viscount Cranborne, the former Tory leader in the Lords and one of the architects of the deal, warned the Lord Chancellor: "The Weatherill amendment is a least bad option. But I have to say to the Lord Chancellor that by his attempt to hushwhack the House this afternoon, he has not made our task any easier."

Peers were poised to defeat the Government in the early hours on a symbolic amendment by Lord Cobbold, a crossbencher, that criticises the Government for removing what we believe are the correct hereditaries before revealing its plans for a future make-up of



A member of the Disability Benefits Consortium protesting at Westminster yesterday against possible cuts in payments Andrew Buurman

Disabled 'betrayed' by proposed benefit cuts

CULTURE

Labour Editor

pletion date.

ly casual attitude to contin- a journey into the future and we

By BARRIE CLEMENT

tion of new management of the

construction of the London Un-

derground Jubilee Line exten-

sion, there was still a "large

question mark" over its com-

do not believe that a Heath

Robinson journey across Lon-

"The Dome can be viewed as

FRANK FIELD, the former Social Security minister, launched his most vigorous attack to date on the Government's welfare plans when he claimed yesterday that £750m of benefit cuts would betray the disabled.

Mr Field spoke out after dis-

WELFARE BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

abled rights campaigners held

a mass lobby of Parliament in protest at the Welfare Reform and Pension Bill currently pass-

SENIOR MEMBERS of Parlia-

ment registered fresh anxi-

eties yesterday about transport

links to the £758m Millennium

Dome and expressed concern

over the huilding's future after

The House of Commons Cul-

ture Committee said that it

was "extremely concerned" at

London Transport's apparent-

gency planning. The Tube route

to the Dome is due to be com-

the celebrations.

ing through the House of Commons. The Disability Benefits Consortium, an umbrella group of more than 250 disabled groups, said that the Bill would from some of the most vulner-

'Extreme concern' over

transport links to Dome

abolition of the Severe Disablement Allowance. Mr Field was joined by Lord

Ashley of Stoke (Lab), chairremove crucial financial support man of the All-Party Parliamentary Disablement Group, and backbench MPs, including entitlement," Mr Field said.

mittee also registered its dis-

agreement over a plan for

short-term car parking at the

site, saying that the attraction

The report into the Dome

said that its opening celebration

should remind people that the

millennium was a Christian

anniversary, hut should not ex-

Church leaders have indi-

clude devotees of other faiths

cated that the opening cere-

should be "car-free".

or those of none.

The proposals include the Dr Lynne Jones (Lab. Birmingham Selley Oak). "The cuts break the specific promise to disabled people that any social security savings would come from helping them to find work and not from cutting

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pleted in three phases with the don represents an appropriate mony will be boycotted if the Archbishop of Canterbury is not final link open by 31 October. start to the day," the report said. pany for failing to say how tick-While a report by the com-Under the chairmanship of allowed to usher in the new ets for the Dome would he mittee welcomed the introduc-Gerald Kaufman MP, the com-Cannabis 'no longer rebellious'

THE USE of cannabis is so commonplace among British schoolchildren that it is no longer regarded as an act of re-bellion, the drugs tsar Keith Hellawell admitted yesterday.

Addressing the Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr did not even associate smoking cannabis with drug-taking. "It's almost as if it has become marginalised," he said.

BY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

actually beating the system and being a rebel or radical if you are taking the substance." In a frank exchange with Hellawell said many children MPs, Mr Hellawell, the UK's anti-drugs co-ordinator, admitted that the Government's strategy for fighting drugs was unlikely to show any signs of Everybody does it. You are not success within three years.

safe from the growing problem of heroin use and some youngsters were taking it as their first illegal drug. Although many new heroin users have been introduced to the smokable form of the drug, some young users were now choosing to inject heroin to satisfy their increasing craving. Mr Hellawell said.

The drug tsar promised MPs that more of the £1.4bn spent annually on fighting drugs I will take my kids away'."

THE COST to date of the

bombs dropped on Iraq by

British forces in Operation

Desert Fox and subsequent

actions was £4m, Secretary

of State for Defence, George

Rohertson, disclosed.

Safety push

dence over the deliberations of a select committee, he said. The report criticised the New Millennium Experience Com-

The Rev Stephen Lynas, an

Anglican minister and millen-

nium spokesman for the UK's

main churches, said that the

committee's report was

"vague" about the position of

Christianity in the celebrations.

isfied with the Government's

position on the issue, which presumably would take prece-

But the churches were sat-

He said no community was would be allocated to education. which receives only 3 per cent

of the budget.

Mr Hellawell said ground had been lost by the reluctance of schools to take on board anti-drug messages. He said: "Up to four or five years ago it was taboo in schools to talk about drugs. It was outlawed by parents who said. If they are talking about drugs in school, it's a druggy school and

War on hooligans

SIMON BURNS, the Tory MP for Chelmsford West. published his Football (Offences and Disorder) Bill to close legal loopholes on racist and indecent chanting and ticket-touting, and to strengthen powers to deal with football hooligans, especially at overseas international matches. Mr Burns said he had worked closely with ministers in drafting the Bill.

Today's agenda

Commons, 9.30am: Backbench debates on secondary education in Plympton; A500 scheme, Stoke-on-Trent; Chelmsford Prison. 3pm: Welsh Questions;

THE HOUSE

Prime Minister's Questions: Employment Relations Bill;

debate on prescription charges for cystic fibrosis sufferers.

car theft and role of design. Parliament rises today for the Easter break. The Lords returns on Monday, 12 April and the Commons on Tuesday, 13 April,

Iraq attack

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to "inject a new

impetus" into the health and safety agenda to mark the 25th anniversary of the Health and Safety at Work Lords, 2.30pm: Debates on Act, Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, announced

Lottery income

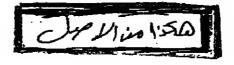
THE TOTAL income from the National Lottery for good

QUESTIONS ANDANSWERS

causes reached its highest level so far in 1998 with £1.95bn The original amount in the National Lottery's first full year in 1995 was £1.34bn

Freud squad

MINISTERS ARE considering measures that will make the registration of people offering psychological counselling a statutory requirement, the Health minister John Denham indicated.



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ed species Pinochet could be tried in Britain

THE SPANISH judge seeking to extradite Augusto Pinochet to Spain has said he will cooperate in seeing the former Chilean dictator tried in Britain, should Jack Straw, the For-eign Secretary, decide not to grant his extradition request.
After last week's decision by

the law lords to reduce greatly the number of charges against the general, Judge Bal-tasar Garzon has insisted, in documents sent to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), he still wants General Pinochet, 83, to be tried in Spain.

But he grants British legal authorities access to all the documents in the case "so they can proceed in England against Senator Pinochet if the extradition process is discontinued".

Judge Garzon's gesture came in response to a request made on Friday by the CPS for ice to go through all the evidence submitted from Spain. He said that if extradition was blocked he "would have no legal objection to the case being prosecuted in England, if English laws permit".

Judge Garzon drastically reworked his case against General Pinochet after the law lords decided last Wednesday to throw out most of the charges. By a 6-1 majority, they called for the general's case to be reconsidered as they cut the number of human rights ruins and that no dictator can charges upon which he could be

The judge has submitted details of 40 cases of torture and death that occurred after the 29 September 1988 watershed - the date Britain recognised in Madrid

torture as a universal crime and before General Pinochet stood down in 1990.

To the eight cases contained

in the original indictment, Judge Garzon has added 32 new ones to support the charges of torture and conspiracy to torture. Among them are those of Manuel Canales, who had electrodes placed against his temple and against a testicle during interrogation; and of Pablo Apablaza, who was illegally detained and blind-folded, and had an empty pistol fired three times against his head, and electric current applied to his genitals.

In addition, Judge Garzon has reminded British prosecutors of 1,198 forced disappearances that remain unresolved: "permanent, live crim?" that qualifies as torture under the 1992 UN Declaration on the Protection of Disappeared Persons. Lawyers close to Judge Garzon emphasise that the reduced number of charges imposed by the law lords in no way lessens the force of the case against the general.

Mr Straw has until 15 April to rule on whether extradition should proceed. Even if he decides to go no further, most Spaniards believe that General Pinochet's reputation lies in now escape justice. Judge Gar-

zon, they feel, has already won. General Pinochet himself remains under house arrest in Surrey, with his legal team claiming that he is condemned to a "custodial limbo".





Betjeman's 'pleasant acres' in danger

HOW LONG before the pleasaut acres ... are rolled acress by limestone breakers", asked John Betjeman in his poem

Matlock Bath. Sadly, the answer is now. Vast areas of countryside are being scarred by the quarrying industry - including the Derbyshire moorland that inspired the late Poet Laureate. A report today from the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) urges the Government to protect landscapes made famous by writers such as Betjeman and Geoffrey

Chaucer. Betjeman was a trifle late on the scene when he penned his immortal words on Matlock Bath. People have been quar-

the current operations would horrify the poet.

Fleets of eight-wheeler lorries thunder through the area, carrying hundreds of thousands of tons of gritstone. This year, six to seven million tons of limestone will be quarried from the nearby Peak District National Park

But John Anfield, the park's head of planning, took exception to one local's description of beautiful landscapes being turned into eerie moonscapes.

"Quarrying is a continuing challenge to efforts to conserve the park's beauty and we take a robust approach to any new applications," Mr Anfield rying in the area since Roman said "Every effort is made to times - but the arithmetic of stop quarrying creating eye-

sores, with careful landscaping council said yesterday: "Moor-and true planting. knd which John Betjaman

"The industry is a big local employer but we have to remember what the park is all about. Keeping the balance is a great challenge," he added. Emily Richmond of the

From Matlock Bath by John Betjeman How long before the

pleasant acres Of intersecting Lovers' Walks Are rolled across by Ilmestone breakers,

How long will Speedwell

wrote about in his poem Mutlock Bath is now being quarried for limestone in the Peak

National Park, In Kent, the ragstone which forms a band to the north of the Pilgrims' Way,

Whole woodlands snapp'd like cabbage stalks? O God, our help in ages



as bury Tules, is under the est from quarrying. As you visit. areas of south-west England or northern England particularly, you can see huge swaths of landscape have been cut out. This has major implications for our cultural history." The council has used parts

featured in Chaucer's Can-

the countryside with strong literary associations to illustrate the threat posed to the environment by extraction of minerals such as sand, gravei and crushed rock.

Its report, Quarry Con-flicts, is published at a time when the Government is reviewing its quarrying policy.

In addition to areas that have already been scarred, from damaging quarries and local authorities have permis- reduces the demand for buildsion to quarry a further four ing materials."

er als. The council wants new laws that will lead to planning consent being refused where there is already an excessive

supply of land to quarry.
The Government is currently waiting for the quarrying industry to make proposals on how it can minimise harm caused to the countryside but the council believes voluntary measures will be insufficient.

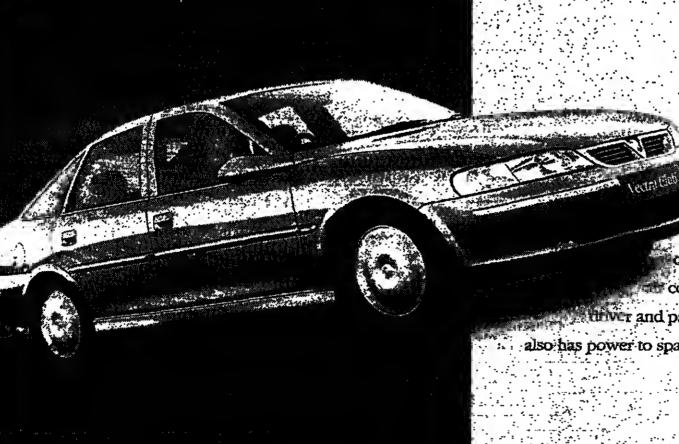
Ms Richmond added: "Minerals planning policy risks being stuck in a time warp as the Government begins to green up its act on transport and new housing.

"We need a fresh approach which protects the countryside

m' over

benefit cut

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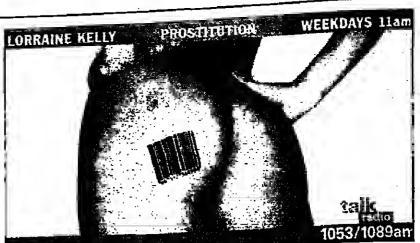


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Adverts that use images of human sex or cruelty to animals received the most public complaints last year. They included ones for the soft drink Irn-Bru, Nicky Clarke shampoo, TCP throat lozenges and a show on Talk Radio

Bovine joke was the most reviled advert of the year

A MOURNFUL looking Jersey cow peers out of what has emerged as the most reviled poster advertisement of 1998. non-broadcast advertisements When I'm a burger," she says, in the UK, disagreed with the "I want to be washed down with Irn-Bru."

According to the annual report of the Advertising Stan-dards Authority, published throat lozenges featuring a today, the bovine musings man with a tiger wrapped prompted 589 complaints - the around his neck have most for a single poster or prompted warnings from the

The watchdog, which polices the majority seeing it would not portraying women. be offended. But the Irn-Bru

the statement said, "the ASA bas highlighted the need for advertisers to be more aware complainants, concluding that of public sensitivities when

"But in 1998, those that attracted most complaints caused problems because of their portrayal of animals." The ASA's identification of a national unease about the

television commercials. The most controversial TV

ad of last year featured a dead pet barnster called Kevin. His tragic demise was brought on by the breakdown of his wheel. "Kevin grew bored and died," said a voiceover, before the dead creature was prodded with a pencil.

The film prompted 519 comcommercial exploitation of plaints, a level of outrage

Independent Television Commission ruled that it did not breach its code, but insisted that it be broadcast after the

9pm watershed. The other common theme of the year was public concern about the depiction of religion and related symbols. The Sunday Times provoked 142 complaints with a poster designed to promote a series on the pho-

model on the cross was "tasteless, provocative and blasphemous to Christians".

The authority also took a similarly dim view of a Diesel jeans magazine and poster advertisement that featured four young women dressed as nuns from the waist up, wearing jeans and holding rosaries. Behind was the Virgin Mary,

This is our mission."

Other ads that attracted complaints included ones for Nicky Clarke shampoo and Talk Radio. The shampoo commercial showed a naked woman perched on the shoulders of a naked man washing his hair in a shower and received 131 complaints. The

take more care when portraying animals. "In past reports,"
with concerns expressed about
the statement said "the ASA"

Indeed an image of provided by Irn-Bru. The ASA agreed that the image of per cent cotton," read the copy.

Indeed and the copy of the ASA agreed that the image of per cent cotton, read the copy.

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Overall, the number of complaints increased over the previous year (12,217 as against 10.676 in 1997). The ASA felt that this did not represent a general attempt on the part of advertisers to shock but instead reflected a high degree of popular concern with a handful of campaigns.

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2 INSERT THE MISSING PAIR.

3 FIND THE ODD ONE OUT.

4 WHICH OF THESE SHAPES DOES NOT BELONG?

IMPLETES THE FIRST AND

6 NO THE WORD THAT CAN BE PREFIXED BY THE FOLLOWING.

7 LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE FOLLOWING EQUATION. IS IT TRUE OR IS IT SO MIND NUMBINGLY AMAZING YOU CAN'T QUITE GET YOUR HEAD ROUND IT?

WOLF is to FLOW as 8526 is to...?









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FOR THE OTHER ANSWERS, GO TO PACE 12

Channel 5 criticised for 'tacky' sex shows

THE GOVERNMENT'S televi- By Paul McCann sion watchdog has taken the highly unusual step of describing Channel 5 as "tacky" in its annual report, because of the be allowed on free-to-air chanbroadcaster's use of sex to at-nels in the UK. tract viewers.

failing to broadcast more cur- called the BSC "anachronistic rent affairs programmes and for having only "adequate" coverage of the Nato action in Yuers the ITC can fine channels or goslavia during prime time this even take away licences. The

The Independent Television Commission, which regulates for increasing its ratings and incommercial channels, singled troducing new programmes, a out Channel 5's late night "erot- detailed reading of the chanic dramas" and factual shows nel's performance showed it for criticism in its evaluation of now airs the lowest amount of during 1998.

Channel 5 was criticised for having a high number of breaches of the ITC programme code during the year and for "the tackiness associated with an increased use of low-budget erotic drama in the evening and of various factual programmes on sexual themes".

Factual programmes such as The Real Monty, Swindon Superbabes. Stags and Hens and On the Piste were described as "overly voyeuristic" while the explicitness of Sex and Shopping was "unsuitable for broadcast at any time".

This is the second serious criticism of the channel this year. The Broadcasting Standards Commission said its erotic series, Compromising Situations and Hotline, raised significant issues about wbether programmes that in-

clude sex for sex's sake should

At the time, Channel 5's ITV was also criticised for chief executive, David Elstein, BSC has few powers.

While the ITC praised ITV current affairs in its history. ITV produced just one hour and 25 minutes of current affairs per week in 1998. In 1997, the regulator had asked ITV to increase the amount of factual programming it broadcasts and last year it doubled its 1997 output. However, most of the new programmes were so-called docu-soaps, or observational documentaries, and the ITC wants ITV to return to more thoughtful documentaries.

■The BBC has admitted it was wrong to allow a number of jokes about masturbation in the Christmas Day episode of Men Behaving Badly. The BBC admitted its mistake after the Broadcasting Standards Commission yesterday upheld complaints from 18 viewers about the content of the programme. The BBC said it misjudged the different nature of the Christmas night audience.

Waiting list pledge met, says Dobson

A FALL in the number of peo-ple waiting for NHS treatment in England means the Government has fulfilled its pledge to cut queues to below pre-election levels, Frank Dobson said yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Health said the reduction was a "magnificent achievement" and reflected the "massive efforts" of NHS staff.

The Conservatives, however, accused Mr Dobson of fiddling the figures. They claimed many people were now waiting longer for an initial hospital appoint-

products and services and only past on your details

By MAXINE FRITH

ment that would allow them to go on the official waiting lists. The number of people waiting for treatment fell by 39,700 in February. The total now stands at 1,119,700 - 38,000 below the figure on 1 May 1997.

Mr Dobson also announced new targets yesterday to increase the number of initial outpatient appointments next year. But the British Medical Association said it would be "impossible" to meet the targets without more consultants.



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Sportswomen hampered by myths about weaker sex

WOMEN HAVE been held back By JEREMY LAURANCE rom attaining the heights of porting achievement by myths about their inferior capabilities compared with men, according to an expert who has made a

study of their progress. Years of being barred from competitive sport on the basis of mistaken theories about the damage it would cause to the female body have left women trailing men in most sports. But they are catching up fast, says Ellis Cashmore, professor of sociology at Staffordshire

Writing in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, Professor Cashmore says: "The question is not why women lag so far behind men but how they have managed to make up so much ground so quickly." He cites women's marathon

running a sport from which women were banned on health grounds until a few decades ago. Since 1964, women's times have improved by an annual average of two minutes and 47 seconds compared with just 66 seconds for men. Already women frequently beat men in long-distance swimming and also in equestrian events.

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esterday: "Competition has a habit of bringing out excellence. If you turned back the clock to the end of the 19th century, when sport was becoming

competition to men and women it is likely women would be competing at a much higher level than they are today."

Research in the 1920s and

1930s perpetuated the view of

women as physically inferior first laid down at the turn of the century when it was suggested the enfeebling effects of menstruction were best offset with "homely gymnastics", otherwise known as housework. Determined sportswomen were thought of as odd, unfeminine and moral degenerates. But this "so perfectly suited general views about women and the division of labour, that they were eagerly accepted as fact by a British society encrusted in

patriarchy", Professor Cash-

The myths about the damage women athletes were doing to themselves acted as a powerful deterrent to others thinking of taking up sport. Mildred (Babe) Didrickson, the US basketball champion and track and field star of the 1930s, who later became a top-class golfer, blamedher sport for her failure to conceive. Professor Cashmore said: "It was typical of women's attitude to sport that they feared it would make them



Track and field champion Mildred 'Babe' Didrickson (left) blamed her failure to conceive on sport, but Olympic gold medal runner Fanny Blankers-Koen showed that childbearing and sport could be compatible

> Since then many female O'Sullivan is taking a year out pete on equal terms with men, sportswomen have become to have a baby and says she inmothers and returned later to competitive sport. "Quite a few sabbatical and found when they returned they were better than ever. The Irish runner Sonia should not ultimately com-

tends to return," said Professor

Apart from some strength sports such as weightlifting. there is no reason why women

that in all sports that demand skill as opposed to pure brawn, peting at levels comparable with their male counterparts." Sue Arnold, Review, page 4 | £750,000 of player bonuses for

Man Utd fans face 14% hike in ticket cost

By Peter Thal Larsen

SUPPORTERS OF Manchester United, the country's biggest football club, were told yesterday that they will have to pay for the players' wage demands through more expensive tickets. The club's fans reacted with nger to the news that ticket

prices would rise by up to 14 per cent next season. The increase in prices will come into force from August when tickets will go up by £2. The cheapest seat for the club's Old Trafford ground will cost £16 and the most expensive £22.

Season tickets will now cost beween £304 and £418. The club revealed yesterday that signing expensive new stars and a rising players' wage bill had pulled down its half-year

profits from £15.4m to £11.1m. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, spent heavily last summer in an attempt to beef up his squad before mounting a renewed assault on the Premier League title and the European Champions League. Top players were brought in at

a total cost of more than £28m. The new stars' wage demands, combined with new contracts for established players such as David Beckham and Ryan Giggs, pushed up United's wage bill by £3m in the six months to the end of January. The figure includes



reaching the knock-out stages of the Champions League.

United is also pressing ahead with a £30m project to add 12,400 seats to its stadium. taking the capacity to 67,400. David Gill, United's finance

director, defended the increases: "If you look at the Premier League, we are currently ranked 15th out of 20 clubs in terms of ticket prices. These rises lift us to ninth, but that is before the others push through their own increases.

However, the price rises provoked outrage from United fans. Lee Hodgkiss, a spokesman for the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said: "The traditional supporters are now being priced out of the game. The club are acting cynically. It

K Show. Hi-tech gadgets have female appeal

A NEW breed of woman, the BY CHARLES ARTHUR techno-ladette, is stalking the

A survey of female attitudes has found that women are just as interested in technology as men are - but that the mostly male advertisers and markethow to communicate with women.

well-informed when it comes to more women than men were inputers and mobile phones, or connecting up to the Internet, according to new research by the marketing company Cohn

Women have a growing number of role models who are at ease with technology such as Meg Ryan in the film You've Got Mail or the female

Technology Editor

ries Bugs. "Interest levels in new technology are genderblind," said James Murphy, a director at Cohn & Wolfe and the author of the report.

Mobile phone sales to ing executives who are selling women were up 24 per cent last in 1996 men's magazines conyear, and computer sales were tained almost 20 times more up 11 per cent. Asked to rate their interest in technical de-Thus, women do not feel tails when buying a computer, buying equipment such as com- terested - 30 per cent compared with 27 per cent.

purchase, only 8 per cent of the women felt confident. A similar exercise - choosing a company to provide Internet access -showed similar levels of interest and splits in confidence.

Many women complained of

being patronised by salesmen

- who were mostly male - or igoored altogether in favour of their male companions.

Fanny Blankers-Koen, a Dutch

runner; won four gold medals at

the 1948 London Olympics in

the sprints, hurdles and relay.

Aged 30, she was already a

mother and people started to

think that perhaps childhearing

"The marketing of technology fails to bridge the gap between women's interest levels and their claimed confidence,' Mr Murphy said. He also pointed out statistics showing that computer advertising than did women's magazine.

But he believes that advertisers can ease the problem by "embracing and shaping" the aspirations of the "sophisticat-Yet when it came to rating ed techno-femme". Mobile their confidence in making a phones are a particular target, with advertisers currently focusing on the phones' small

> "Old assumptions about the marketing of technological products may in practice be hurting sales and damaging brands," Mr Murphy said.

Dixons

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Introducing Digital-8. An exciting new system that gives you digital picture clarity and CD sound quality on a Hi-8 tape. You can use it to play back your existing Hi-8 and 8mm video libraries or connect direct to PC and DV equipment.

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Sandline wins £11m court battle over anti-terrorist action

accounts with the Bank of Eng- contract arose from the long-

THE CONTROVERSIAL British BY PAUL LASHMAR security firm Sandline won a court battle in Australia yes-Guinea government over unpaid fees of \$18m (£11.3m).

land that was aborted and appeal against a 1998 interna-

nearly caused a coup in 1997. terday against the Papua New Colonel Tim Spencer, Sandline executive and Falklands hero, was arrested and deported. The ruling follows Sandline's Queensland supreme court involvement in an anti-terror- said it had no jurisdiction to ist operation on Bougainville Is- hear Papua New Guinea's

tional tribunal order that it pay the money. Sandline hired investigators and bailiffs to find and freeze hank accounts across the world held by Papua New Guinea.

"Sandline knows where Papua New Guinea's assets are. The state can run hut it cannot hide," said a company

ther costs in a futile attempt to

hope, although it does not exbeen involved in a number of government and Melanesian pect, that the government will controversial operations. It was behave responsibly and meet at the centre of the 'Arms to its liability without wasting fur- Sierra Leone' scandal that caused great embarrassment delay the inevitable." The com- to the Foreign Office and to pany has already taken action Robin Cook, the Foreign Secagainst Papua New Guinea's retary. The Papua New Guinea

secessionists on Bougainville. The Deputy Prime Minister

and Defence Minister of Papua New Guinea turned to Sandline, "security consultants" based in London, after rebels on Bougainville had cut off a vital copper mine. In 1997 they con-

spokesman. "Sandline would land and the EU. Sandline has standing dispute between the tracted Sandline to provide military personnel and equipment and paid \$18m of the agreed \$36m fee up-front. But the involvement of foreign troops angered the army, which

threatened mutiny. The new government of Bill Skate has refused to pay the outstanding half of the fee. It previous administration was illegal and unconstitutional Sandline appealed and the tribunal was convened, which unanimously awarded in favour IN PHENINANT

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Marine Convey Avail

of Sandline. The judges ruled that under international law the contract

Le Pen blow as old ally defects

LIFE CONTINUES to be unpleasant to Jean-Marie Le Pen. The leader of the far right National Front party has been abandoned by yet another ally, this time Jean Marie Le Chevallier, the mayor of Toulon,

Mr Le Pen has been caught in Belgium with a small arsenal of dangerous weapons in the boot of his car. His position in the opinion polls is slipping close to the point where he could lose all credibility as a

who is one of his oldest politi-

force in French politics. As if this were not enough, a court began hearings yesterday to decide who has the legitimate right to the National Front's name, symbol and cash. If Mr Le Pen loses, he could be forced to share all three with Bruno Mégret, the long-time second force in the NF, who set up his own rival party, the National Front National Move-

ment, in January. The hreakaway party has difficulties of its own. After rising to 6 per cent in the polls -1 per cent above the mark that it must reach to scoop seats and public subsidies in the European elections in June -Mr Mégret's movement has melted back down to 4 per power".

But Mr Le Pen's "official" National Front is scarcely doing better. The most recent surveys give the NF only 6 per polls before the split. If confirmed at the European election, this would be the xenophobic and ultra-nationalist party's lowest score for

19 years. Mr Le Pen, 70, is manifestly rattled and behaving erratically, even by his By JOHN LICHFIELD m Paris

own standards. When Belgian police found a loaded semiautomatic rifle, 50 cartridges, and two tear gas grenades in his car in Brussels, he claimed to have been the victim of a sting operation and railed at a local television crew in an insulting, mock-Belgian accent.

The defection of Mr Le Chevallier, the mayor of Toulon - who has declared himself an independent - is especially damaging to Mr Le Pen. The two had been friends for 24 years and political allies for 15 years. Toulon was the jewel in the NF's crown, the largest town it had ever won.

The mayor's defection reduces the number of town halls under Mr Le Pen's control to one - Orange in the Rhône valley. Two other NF-controlled towns, in the Marseilles outer suburbs, have gone with Bruno Megret, as have more than half of all the party's local councillors nationwide.

Mr Le Chevallier said that he was quitting the NF because he could no longer tolerate Mr Le Pen's unpredictable behaviour and his inability to "share

The two men are said to have fallen out several years ago, partly over the increasing influence of Mr Le Chevallier's ambitious wife, Cendrine. Mr spoken to Cendrine Le Chevallier since 1995. The mayor of Toulon has, so

far, refused to join forces with Mr Megret, whom he detests. It is thought more likely that he will rejoin the "traditional" right, from which he defected to join Mr Le Pen in 1983.



Aftershocks hit Indian quake area as death toll rises to 110

SEVERE AFTERSHOCKS hampered rescue workers' efforts yesterday to reach survivors of Monday's earthquake in the Himalayan foothills of northern

dig through piles of stone and mud to reach huried relatives in the town of Chamoli, the epicentre of the earthquake, believed to be entombed in rubble. The official death toll of 110 is expected to rise further

Landslides triggered by the earthquake – which, at 6.8 on the Richter scale, was the higgest in the region for 90 years - have cut communications with many of the affected

BY JASON BURKE

and helicopters were flying sorties yesterday over the earth- At least 5,000 people have been quake zone, dropping aid to Witnesses report that people survivors in remote villages have been using their hands to around Chamoli. Many are still around Chamoli. Many are still without shelter or electricity and have had almost all their Shridhar Pathak, Chamoli's

areas. Indian Air Force planes

senior police officer, said a total of 14 villages had been reported as "destroyed" and that about 90 per cent of Chamoh itself - the local administrative centre - had been damaged.

Nearly 150 people had been rescued from collapsed houses

so far, Mr Pathak said, and several hundred injured were being treated by military medics in makeshift hospitals.

made homeless. Last night, thousands more villagers spent a third night in the open for fear of further damage from the aftershocks food stocks huried. The extent some registering four on the of the damage in the area was Richter scale - which continued

Chamoli is at an altitude of nearly 1,070 metres (3,500ft) and many of the affected villages are far higher. Although winter is over, the nights are

still cold. The earthquake struck at 12.35am on Monday when most people were asleep. Entire fam-

ilies were wiped out. One local resident told reporters that five members of his family of seven had died. Another described how he

had spent Monday night digging in the debris of his house with a shovel, only to find two buried relatives dead. Six prisoners were killed when the Chamoli jail collapsed. "For a minute, all the earth

ran out of our houses very, very scared," said Himanshu Thapliyal, 28, a lawyer in Biyasi, a small town near Chamoli.

Romesh Sharma, a teacher in Chamoli, said he rushed out of his house when he heard "a buildings around him collapse. hari Vajpayee.

"I ran for my life to the police station hut that, too, had crumpled," he told a local reporter.

Another Chamoli resident

said the earthquake felt as "if the earth was coming apart and the mountains were coming crashing down on the villages". The 40-second jolt cracked huildings 185 miles (300km) away in the capital. Delhi, and

was felt in neighbouring Pak-Pakistani officials said the

earthquake shook the eastern cities of Lahore and Gujranwala. The officials said Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, had sent a message of sympathy to his terrific noise", only to see the Indian counterpart, Atal Bi-

Yeltsin speech lands a punch

BY PHIL REEVES in Moscow

BORIS YELITSIN defied the odds yesterday by delivering his state-of-the-nation speech without disasters, and even landing a punch on the chin of his prime minister by warning him against a "revanche".

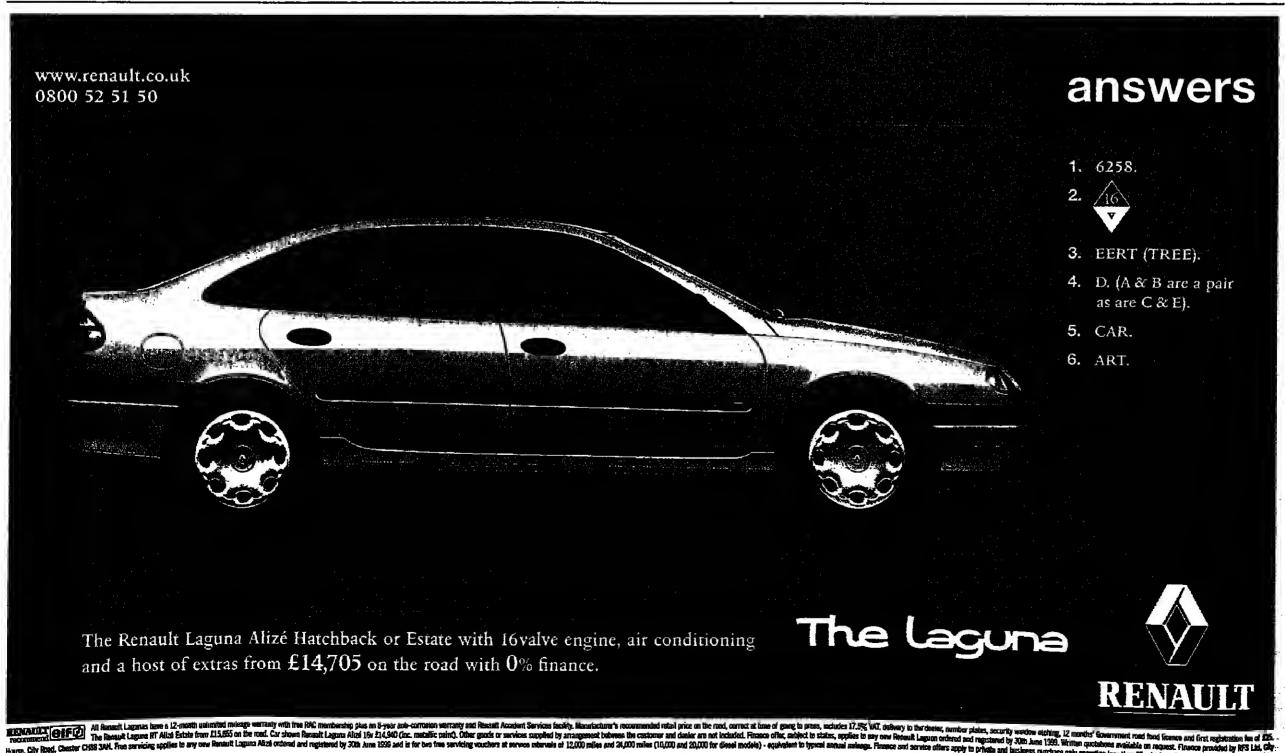
His long-awaited speech to parliament, though delivered confidently enough, was far from vintage Yeltsin, being bereft of emotion, let alone passion. It was only 18 minutes long, as he chose to deliver more detailed views on the economy in the form of a written report.

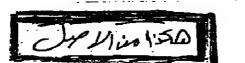
It came at a difficult time, even though Russia was patting itself on the back yesterday after winning an agreement for an IMF loan, the amount to be announced, which looks suspiciously like a Western pay-off to ease Moscow's injured feelings over the Balkans.

In the twilight months of his reign, Mr Yeltsin is overburdened by problems: a shattered economy, attempts by his opponents to curb his powers and even impeach him, chronic ill-health and a corruption investigation that strikes to the heart of the Kremlin. Bespectacled these days, he

looks weary and remote - more the semi-retired chairman of the board, a vague figurehead who knows nothing of day-today details, than an active chief executive. But he got through the performance, his first major speech for months, without serious hiccups, albeit also without much applause. In fact, Mr. Yeltsin - or at least his speechwriters - even proved there is fight in him yet.

He took several swipes at his premier, Yevgeny Primakov, who was in Belgrade trying to broker peace. He praised the country through the perilous months after last August's economic crash, but he also delivered a warning against "new centralisation - a return, in other words, to Soviet-style interventionism at the expense of market economics and individual freedoms.





But Antipental

rist action

Yeltsin



Killing puts trash talk shows on trial in US

FOR THE next few weeks, By DAVID USBORNE mericans will have another in New York eason to watch daytime television: if they tune to Court TV they will be able to watch the trial of, well, daytime TV. Or, more specifically, the trial of trash-talk TV, that special brand of "humilitainment" brought to us by the likes of Jerry Springer and Ricki Lake.

In the dock in a Pontiac courthouse just outside Detroit will be another exemplar of the trash-talk formula, The Jenny Jones Show.

If you have not seen it, you may remember this about it: four years ago one of its guests was murdered by another

grande in altern

answers

one was homosexual, the other. apparently, was most avowedly heterosexual On 9 March 1995 the execu-

tive producer of the show broke the news to Ms Jones about the awful fallout from the programme that had been about same-sex crushes. "We've just heard that one of our guests has murdered another guest," Ed Galvin informed her. As the Detroit News reports it, Ms Jones was dumbstruck. She replied: "There must be a mistake. How could this happen?"

It did bappen, and it is the guest after they had appeared family of the victim, Scott Ame-

ers, Telepictures, and Warner Brothers, the overall owner of the programme, for \$50m (£31m). They will contend, in arsuments due to begin today, that Amedure's assailant,

His subsequent distress, they will say, drove him to murder. The sequence of events is not in doubt. The producers of the show invited Schmitz, a man with a troubled mental background, to come on to the programme because, they said, he had a secret admirer who would come forward on air.

Jonathan Schmitz, was delib-

erately humiliated by the show.

Schmitz duly turned up for the taping of the show. To his evident astonishment, together on the programme. dure, who are now suing The his admirer turned out to be a miliation on Schmitz. It showed who was convicted last week of

The show was never broadcast. But three days after the taping, Schmitz barged into. the trailer-park home of Amedure and fired twice into his chest with a shotgun. Schmitz telephoned the emergency services to say he had killed a man who had embarrassed him on national television.

Schmitz was later convicted of murder, but is awaiting a second trial after his first conviction was overturned on a technicality.

Lawyers for the Amedure family will argue that the show's producers deliberately sought to inflict maximum hu-Both guests were young men; Jenny Jones Show, its produc- man. He was Amedure, whom a tape of Amedure confessing

- allegedly loosened by alcohol provided by the producers - to his favourite homosexual fantasy about Schmitz. It involved a hammock, some whipped cream, champagne and straw-

Geoffrey Fieger, who will represent the plaintiffs, plans to bring veterans of the talk show industry to the stand, including Morton Downey Jr. "They'll explain to the jury what the basis of these shows are, and that is to increase advertising dollars by raising audience share," he said. "That's the only reason for the existence of

these trials." Mr Fieger is famous as the lawyer of Dr Jack Kevorkian, murder in a euthanasia case.

Pager service tip-offs for car chase addicts

AMERICAN TIMES

was a real doozy. A wanted live coverage, and then the criminal, in a black fournews bulletins rehash it all vheel-drive, speeding away from a column of police squad cars through the San Fernando Valley - all captured,

live, on television. "This could be interesting. Zoom in! Zoom in!" shouted the over-excited KCAL correspondent to the cameraman as they swooped above the action in a helicopter. The suspect managed to jam three police cars in a loop thanks to a deft 360-degree turn before roaring up on to the pavement of a busy shopping street in Van Nuys.

"There's someone with a child approaching the car. Oh no, get away, get away!" the correspondent, Larry Welk, pleaded with the two figures appearing on the television screen. It was hard to tell if he was dreading the prospect of a pedestrian getting kidnapped or flattened, or if he

By now the other local networks, Fox and UPN and KCBS, were interrupting regular programming to bring their own footage of the chase. After what seemed an endless tease between pursuer and pursued, the four-wheel-drive zoomed into a shopping centre car park, crashed through a fence into a storage area and finally came to an ignominious halt after trying to ram a squad car blocking its exit.

"We have gunfire! We have gunfire!" screeched Larry Welk. And sure enough, as the suspect was at last apprehended, be was hauled on to an ambulance to be treated for

bullet wounds. Welcome to Los Angeles' favourite obsession, the television car chase. There's usually one every couple of days and, thanks to the ever-vigilant television helicopter teams that scour the smoggy skies above the City of Angels, no twist or turn goes unbroadcast for more than the few minutes it takes to locate the scene of the drama. Soap operas and daytime chatshows get kicked later in the day.

Who knows why everyone is so obsessed with them, but they are. Maybe it's because Los Angeles is the perfect backdrop for such minidramas - vast, anonymous and chock-a-block with roadways. Maybe it's because the chases are just like scenes out of Hollywood action films, complete with the assurance that the hot pursuit will eventually lead to some tight spot or dead end where the perpetrator will at last get his (or her) come-uppance.

Whatever the reason, they are certainly money-spinners



the thrill of the chase AP

and not just for the networks whose viewing figures soar while the chase is on. Ask Ken Krwehara, for a start. He is an enterprising former cop who has come up with the idea of a paging service for television car chases. Pay him a few dollars a month and he will alert you the second a juicy chase

pops up on the small screen. That may sound sick (indeed the complaints section on his website includes a message proclaiming "It's sick!") but the service has proved to be a roaring success since its inception in January. There are even cash prizes for those who alert the service to a chase.

Thanks to Mr Kırwabara, subscribers were able to tune in to last month's split-screen

AS THEY say around bere, it off the air to make room for bonanza, in which two chases carried on simultaneously, or to last week's excitement as the alleged miscreant's car spun out of control, hurtled through a brick wall and was left suspended in mid-air with wreckage and tumbling bricks

clattering all around. Most of the subscribers to the Pursuit Watch Network are young men with testosterone to spare, but not all. "I for one am tripped when my pager goes off and it says HOT PURSUIT" one grandmother writes on the service's website. "If I'm at home, the scanner and TV goes on and the map comes up on my

computer to follow 'em." The mother of all LA car chases was O J Simpson's unsuccessful attempt to elude the police in his white Ford Bronco in 1994 - a chase that not only made national and international headlines but was also captured in its entirety by a traffic-monitoring helicopter. By now all the local networks have helicopters dedicated entirely to car chases and correspondents who spend their lives in the air praying for a really juicy shoot-out or high-speed caper.

It's not all fun. Last year, 31 bystanders were killed during police chases in Los Angeles the highest rate of any US city - and there are plenty of people who suspect the foolhardy high jinks leading to such accidents are due at least in part to the presence of the television cameras.

"Most of the people who do this aren't the really bad guys," explains Geoffrey Alpert, a criminologist. "Serious criminals try to blend in. The people who run do it for stupid reasons - they're afraid of the points on their insurance, or police once beat them up, or they don't want their parents to know they bor-

rowed the car" Stupid, perhaps; danger-ous, certainly. But, for the networks, the pager junkies and the viewers, it's still great entertainment.

ANDREW GUMBEL

Hong Kong stems immigrant flood

THE HONG Kong government BY STEPHEN VINES breathed a sigh of relief yes- in Hong Kong terday when a court finally gave it some support in its atimmigrants from the Chinese

the Court of Final Appeal tempts to hold back a flood of opened the door to as many as a million people on the mainland who have the right to live The administration fears in Hong Kong because one of that a decision last month by their parents is a local resident.

migrants was rejected by a lower court, with the judge saying the unrestricted entry of so many immigrants would create an "unbearable burden" that

could "sink Hong Kong". Regina Ip, Hong Kong's Sec-

Yesterday, however, an application by a group of would-be retary for Security was jubilant. She said the court had given the government the authority to deport the mainlanders and urged

the rest to go home. Up to 1,000 people are immediately affected by the ruling, many of whom face arrest if

they return to the mainland.

ZUUI is approaching



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IN BRIEF

Man held over **135 killings**

DOZENS OF police cars guarded Fernando Hernandez Leyva, who is suspected of involvement in 135 killings in five southern Mexican states. as he was transferred to prison. The escort was to shield him from victims' families and to prevent him escaping, as he had done twice before.

Japan protest

JAPAN HAS instructed its diplomats in Peking and New York to lodge a protest with North Korea saying that its neighbour sent two spy ships into Japanese territorial waters last week. The ships fled toward North Korean waters after ignoring orders to stop.

Rwandan held

TANZANIA HAS arrested Bernard Ntuvahaga, a former Rwandan army officer, wanted by both Belgium and Rwanda for his alleged role in some of the first killings of the 1994 genocide. The dead included the Rwandan prime minister.

Vibrator ruling AN ALABAMA state law

banning the sale of vibrators has been overturned by a judge for bearing no "relation to a legitimate state interest", after a challenge by women who claimed the devices were necessarv for sexual pleasure they could not get otherwise.

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Is Tomkins a fashion victim or fatally flawed?

■ Who's funding the Internet frenzy?

■ Revealed: the biggest noise in

the music biz

BAT chairman's pay hits £1,017,394

MARTIN BROUGHTON, chairman of British American Tobacco, saw his pay package rise by nearly a third to £1,017,394 in 1998, and exercised options in BAT shares which gave him pre-tax gains worth another £970,054. Mr Broughton, who joined the group in 1971, took home £771.763 in 1997.

Last year BAT demerged its financial services division, principally Eagle Star, and folded it into Allied Zurich. The group also merged its tobacco interests with Rothmans to form one of the biggest cigarette makers in the world. The Right Honorable Kenneth Clarke MP, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, is non-executive deputy chairman of BAT and also chairs the remuneration

DTI may change energy levy

THE GOVERNMENT is considering radical changes to the levy used to fund renewable sources of energy in a bid to reduce electricity hills. The Department of Trade and Industry is planning to replace the present levy. which electricity companies have to pass on to customers, with a system where suppliers bave the option to shoulder the levy without charging customers. The proposal, contained in a government consultation paper on renewable energy, could cut np to I per cent from the average £350 annual hill.

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FTSE 100	6264.10	11.20	0.18	6365,40	4599.20	2.47
F15E 250	5475.80	6.40	0.12	5970.90	4247.60	3.17
FTSE 350	2978.70	5.00	0.17	3024.90	2210.40	2.58
FTSE All Share	2883,10	4.76	0.17	2923.83	2143.53	2,63
FTSE SmallCap	2396.40	1.90	0.08	2793.80	1834.40	3.61
FTSE Fledgling	1302.60	0.90	0.07	1517.10	1046.20	4.01
FTSE AIM	866.10	1,40	0.16	1146.90	761.30	1.13
FISE Eurotop 100	2903.26	-8.95	-0,51	3079,27	2018,15	2.00
FTSE Eurotop 300	1250,71	-6.06	-0.48	1332.07	880.63	1,93
Dow Jones	9927.14	-75.04	-0.76	10085.31	7400,30	1.60
Nikkel	15859,12	-149.72	-0.94	17009.89	12787,90	0.85
Hang Seng	10940.21	251.74	2,36	11874.74	6544,79	3.25
Dax	4856.84	-20.08	-0.41	6217.83	3833.71	1,68
S&P 500	1305,22	-4,41	-0,34	1323,88	923,32	1.23
Nasdaq	2502.12	9,99	0.40	2533.44	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	6643.80	-8.17	-0,12	7837.70	5320.30	1,60
Brazil Bovespa	11052.47	184.70	1,70	12339,14	4579.69	4.81
Beiglum Bei20	3260,80	6.43	0.20	3713.21	2696,26	2.02
Amsterdam Exch	534.40	-0.16	-0.03	600.65	366.58	1,88
France CAC 40	4141.98	•11.67	-0.28	4404_94	2881,21	1.74
Milan MIB30	36463,00	-30.00	-0.08	39170.00	24175.00	1.06
Madrid lbex 35	9677,00	-71.10	-0.73	10989.80	6869.90	1.81
rish Overall	5296.08	43.12	0.82	5581.70	3732.57	1,57
5 Korea Comp	618.05	16.98	2.83	651.95	277.37	1.14
Australia ASX	2995 30	21.30	0.72	3005.70	2386.70	3.10

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	152	5.55

NTEREST RATES

today.	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long band	Yr chy
UK	5 33	-2.27	5.25	-2.36	4.52	-1,42	4.51	-1.34
US	5.00	-0 69	5.28	-0.59			5.63_	0.35
Japan	0.19	-0 52	0.25	-0 43	1.74	-0.15	2.48	0.01
Germany	2.98	-0.59	2.98	-0.84	4.05	-0.88	5.04	-0.47
		C	URI	REN	CIE	S		

1 620	7 #		1 495 W T	F M	-,	197	•	м
	POI	OND.	"Yr Ago		36	DOL	LAR	*Yr A
								

Euro 1,4992		1.4079	Sterling Euro	0.6202	+0.09p	
			Euro	0.9291	-14.31c	0.9571
Ven 193.93 .						0.0371
12.00	+¥0 48	221.20	Yen	120.15	+¥0 44	131,97
£ Index 103 20	-0.60	108.70	5 Index	108.90	+0.10	110.30

	<u> </u>			\mathbf{r}	CAI	UKS		
	Clase	Chg	Yr Ago		Street Land	Og	Yr ago	He et figs
Brent Oil (\$) 14 46	0.00	14 28	GDP	115 40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (5)	279.55	-0.90	301.40	RPI	163.70	2.10	160.33	Mar
Silver (5)	5.12	0.02	6.35	Base	Rates	5.50	7.25	

www.bloomberg.com/uk

TOURIST RATES

Australia (5)	2.4828	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.1
Austria (schillings)	20.05	Netherlands (guilders)	3.216
Belgium (francs)	58.96	New Zealand (5)	2.916
Canada (5)	2.3828	Norway (kroner)	12.2
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8435	Portugal (escudos)	291.0
Denmark (kroner)	10.91	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.890
Finland (markka)	8.7212	Singapore (S)	2.660
France (francs)	9.5824	South Africa (rands)	9.625
Germany (marks)	2.8652	Spain (pesetas)	242.5
Greece (drachma)	476.33	Sweden (kronor)	13.1
Hong Kong (\$)	12.14	Switzerland (francs)	2,342
Ireland (puncs)	1.1478	Thailand (bahts)	55.2
Indian (rupees)	61.67	Turkey (lirași)	57320
Israel (shekels)	6.0562	USA (5)	1.579
Italy (lira)	2840		
Japan (yen)	190,46	Rates for indication purp	oses on

5.8474

Malaysia (ringgits)

Source: Thomas Cool

Biggest jump in house prices since 1997

recorded their biggest increase since September 1997, according to new figures from Nationwide. It was the latest sign that the from its winter downturn.

be heading back towards double figures," said Jonathan Loynes, an economist at HSBC Mar-

Nationwide, which publishes one of two monthly house price Nationwide's for the past two

indices, said prices jumped by 1.5 per cent in March, taking the housing market is recovering year-on-year increase to 7.6 per cent. This followed a subdued "House price inflation could February, when prices rose by just 0.1 per cent.

Halifax said its March index, published next week, is likely to show a slight increase. Its price figures have been well below

David Parry, Nationwide's head of planning, said: "Although spring usually produces an upturn in the housing market. there are tentative signs the recent series of interest-rate cuts have helped boost confidence."

The Easter weekend is a crucial time for the housing market, traditionally bringing a big upturn in sales.

Other indicators have point-

on mortgage approvals have both indicated the start of a recovery. In addition, underlying conditions are favourable; mort-

gage rates are at their lowest for more than 30 years, and properties are affordable hy past However, this month's Budget

dealt a blow by abolishing mortgage tax relief from April 2000. It also raised stamp duty on

years, and showed a 0.5 per ed to a revival in the market Sur-cent drop in February. ed to a revival in the market Sur-veys of estate agents and figures properties priced at above top end of the market.

But the biggest question mark over the outlook for house prices remains the length and severity of the economic downturn. "We have had the interestrate cuts, but nobody has felt the pinch of rising unemployment yet," said Mr Loynes.

Although most forecasters reckon the slowdown will be

as the Treasury, which is predicting I per cent growth this year. Unemployment rose slight ly last month, according to the latest official figures.

Even so, the Bank of England is expected to cut rates further. The Monetary Policy Committee could act as soon as next week. according to some analysis.

The average UK house price stands at £68,308 on Nationwide's figures, up from £63,493

BMW sets four-week deadline for Rover aid

BY MICHAEL HARRISON **Business Editor**

BMW YESTERDAY gave the Government a four-week deadline to come up with an acceptable aid package for Rover's Longbridge car plant in Birmingham or risk seeing a £1.7bn investment in a new family model go overseas.

The German car maker is seeking a subsidy of up to £200m to support the manufacture of a new range of mediumsized cars to replace the Rover 200 and 400 series. The alternative is to huild the new cars in Hungary - a move that would spell the end of Longbridge. threatening up to 50,000 motor industry jobs in the West Mid-

A fortnight ago the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry shocked BMW by offering an aid package worth only £118m. Discussions have continued, and a spokesman for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Stephen Byers, repeated yesterday that he was confident of agreeing a deal. But speaking in Munich, the

new BMW chairman, Professor Joachim Milberg, said: "The longer the negotiations drag on, the greater will become the likelihood of a production site outside Great Britain." Prof Milberg hinted that a

could be higher than that made by Britain. "Hungary would have advantages in comparison to Longbridge, hut there are a number of factors playing a role which have to be taken into account," he said. DTI sources suggested there be agreed, will come with a list

was an element of brinkman-



Joachim Milberg yesterday: Hinted that Hungary's aid offer could top the UK's

had never yet been an application for regional assistance where the company involved than it needed.

"This is not just a case of us hunging a hlank cheque in the new family of cars, codenamed direction of BMW and letting them do what they want with it," The aid package, if one can

of conditions relating to BMW's

ship in the BMW chairman's overall investment in Longcomments, noting that there bridge and the level of productivity and skills improvements that will be achieved.

BMW is already cutting 2,500 further redundancies even if Longbridge is selected for the the R30 series. However, Prof no compulsory redundancies would be necessary given the age of the Rover workforce and

voluntary severance schemes.

The local MP for the Longbridge area said Prof Milberg's Burden, the Labour member for Birmingham Northfield, added: "The important thing is that the discussions between the Gov-Milberg said he was sure that ernment and the company should come to a successful conclusion.

Meanwhile, BMW produced

Michael Kappeler/Reuters

free fall in Rover's share of the car market following its £650m loss last year. In the first three warnings about the dangers of months of this year, sales fell by the talks dragging on had to be 38 per cent. Rover sales fell 3 the market overall has been boosted by about 50 per cent because of the introduction of the new registration letter.

Sales in Europe, excluding the UK, were down by 40 per cent on a year ago. In Italy, an important market for Rover. the high take-up of previous fresh evidence of the continuing the fall was 53 per cent.

grow at 2.3 per cent, as opposed

to the 2.1 per cent it predicted

UK in Commission recommen-

dations on member states' eco-

nomic policy guidelines, which

singled out the UK employment

rate as one of the best in Europe.

But the document added:

"Growth of small business, in-

novation and research and de-

velopment expenditure are all

Germany's slowdown is

blamed on the country's greater-

than-average exposure to world

trade and some domestic influ-

ences, including the depressed

Although the new figures put

construction industry.

relatively weak."

There was also praise for the

Thorne to leave Sainsbury in board shake-up

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

pany with its finance director. Rosemary Thorne, as part of a boardroom shake-up that will cut the number of directors at the underperforming supermarket group from 14 to 12.

David Clapham, head of special husiness units, is also leaving. He has been with the company for 35 years, but Sainshury's announcement misspelled his name. Ms Thorne, 47, at Sains-

bury's for seven years, is one of few female executive directors of a FTSE 100 company. She is leaving by mutual consent "to pursue other opportunities". but will be eligible for substantial compensation. Ms Thorne was on a two-year contract and earned a total of £426,000 last year. It is thought her pay-off will be less than £400,000.

Sainshury's said her departure was due to the separation of finance functions between the group and the Sainsbury's supermarkets board.

Her departure is not a surprise as the City has known for some time that Sainsbury's has been keen to appoint a more powerful finance director. Several candidates are thought to have been offered the job last



Rosemary Thorne: In line for substantial pay-off

"I think they needed a stronger personality in that job, though it is not fair to blame Sainsbury's problems on her." one analyst said.

Mike Dennis at SG Securities added: "You have to ask whether this really changes anything in the business. The key people behind their strate-gy - which has not exactly covered itself in glory - are still there."

Sainsbury's is now looking for a replacement but would not say if an internal appointment was possible. The company is backng its marketing director, Kevin McCarten, who has been criticised after the unsuccessful Value to Shout About" advertising campaign starring John Cleese. In the new board he has! been given extra responsibility for brand development. The shares fell by 0.25p yes-

terday to 380.75p.

Enterprise and Lasmo European Commission abandon merger talks

yesterday abandoned merger talks vowing that each had better prospects remaining as independent oil exploration

In a statement issued after the markets had closed, the two companies said: "Having considered the possible merits of a merger and the contributions that each company would have made to the combination, both companies have concluded that they are better placed to add value independently."

Lasmo fought off a bostile £1.6bn bid from Enterprise five years ago. A merger would have created one of the biggest independent oil exploration groups in the sector with a market capitalisation of just under £2bn.

But after three months of negotiations, it was decided not to go ahead with a merger because, as one source put it, "the risks outweighed the benefits".

IN ANOTHER day of heavy trading,

blue chips edged ahead, ignoring a

prospect of more corporate activity

helped Footsie to an 11.2-point gain

Hopes of more bid action on the

Beecham 36.5p to 892p and Zeneca.

as its merger with Sweden's Astra

was being sealed, jumped 110p to

Derek Pain, page 17

to 6,264.1; supporting indices also

poor opening in New York. The

and even lower interest rates

drugs front lifted SmithKline

LONDON

moved ahead.

2,915p, a peak.

ENTERPRISE OIL and Lasmo By MICHAEL HARRISON

There would have been cost savings of about £20m but this was not sufficient to justify the risks involved in putting two different production and exploration portfolios and management styles together. There were also concerns about the disposal programme that would have been necessary and whether the assets would have fetched an acceptable price.

Pierre Jungels, its chief execuhave been the Enterprise chairman, Sir Graham Hearne.

Mr Jungels said: "When we looked at the overall package it did not stack up."

European Central Bank to Although Enterprise initiated

the talks and was always the keener of the two on a merger, tive, would not have had a role in the enlarged group. Joe Darby, the chief executive of Lasmo, would have taken on that post while its chairman would

NEW YORK

warned of lower sales.

points to 9,923.53.

THE DOW JONES retreated from

Monday's record close, losing

almost 1 per cent after Coca-

Cola, the world's largest soft

drinks company, unexpectedly

Coke, which issued its sales

warning just minutes after the

US market closed for trade on

Monday, was one of the day's

afternoon, its shares were down

\$25/g at \$623/15 helping to drag

the Dow average down by \$3.25

biggest fallers. By the early

EUROPE AGAIN cut its growth By Stephen Castle forecast yesterday blaming the international economic turmoil and raising the pressure on the

reduce interest rates. The latest round of gloomy statistics reflect lower economic expectations from the biggest EU nations, including Germany where the slowdown in 1999 is expected, according to a sepa-rate EU document, to be "more pronounced than in most other

member states". The European Commission expects euro zone gross do-mestic product to rise by just 2.2 per cent in 1999 and 2.7 per cent in 2000, compared with forecasts last autumn of 2.6 and 2.9 per cent respectively.

Growth in all 15 EU countries was also marked down at 2.1 per cent for 1999 as opposed to 2.4 per cent predicted earlier. The

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

RECORD JOBLESS numbers and

the slump in spending figures hit

hopes of an early recovery in the

in Japan has topped 3 million for

the first time, according to official

figures, and household spending tumbled 5.7 per cent in January to

The weak economic data took

record performance on Wall Street

to close down by 149.72 points at

their toll on the Nikkei 225 index.

which shrugged off Monday's

Japanese economy. Unemployment

TOKYO

a 13-year low.

15,859.12.

in Brussels

cuts growth forecast

UK economy is also expected to perform worse than predicted this year, growth for 1999 is expected to be 1.1 per cent, rather than the 13 per cent forecast last October But for 2000, Brussels expects the UK economy to **GROWTH FORECASTS**

		9-
	Previous	Revised
Belgium	· 2.5	1.9
Germany	2.2	1.7
France	2.6	2.3
Ireland	8.2	9.3
1taly	2.1	1.6
Sweden	2.8	2.2
UK	1.3	1.1
EU-15	2.4	2.1
EUR-11	2.6	2.2 "

further pressure on the euro, the Monetary Affairs Commissioner, Yves-Thibault de Silguy, insisted that its current level was "not a source of concern".

HONG KONG STRONG futures-related huying and the Dow's record close pushed Hong Kong stocks over 2 per cent higher yesterday. The Hang Seng closed up

251.74 points at 10,940.21, just off its day's highs. The expiry of March Hang Seng futures contributed to heavy trading volume on the exchange. "The Strength of the April futures, following settlement of the March futures, indicates there's still a hit of buying interest around." Said one analyst.

FRANKFURT

CONCERN ABOUT the action in Kosovo hit stocks in Frankfurt. which gave up early gains to close lower yesterday.

The electronically-traded Xetra DAX finished down 26.01 points, or 0.53 per cent, at 4,841.20. The floor DAX ended down 0.41 per cent st

BMW led the decliners, dropping almost 3 per cent after it said it hoped to match last year's earnings in 1999 and that deliveries had fallen by 15,000 units in the first three months of the year.

ilverst Triple

FORSHAW SWELOPMENTS UMITED

Settle Bill, it's Microsoft's best option

IT MUST gall Bill Gates to watch the trust busters ganging up on a business that has got where it is by virtue of sheer brain power and commercial acumen and not through brute force and ruthless Aquisitions. But he, along with everyone else concerned, must realise that the best way out of the Microsoft antitrust suit is a deal.

The company saw its stock rocket when the first rumours of a possible settlement emerged; the government knows that despite its strong courtroom performance, its case is far from legally watertight; and consumers and the rest other remedy, suggested by the of the industry have a stake in a stable future for the software market.

So the talks that started yesterday in Washington on a settlement must have a fair wind behind them. Microsoft has put up its own framework for a deal that would loosen its contracts with personal computer makers, though it has been received sniffily by the gov-

The nuclear option is, of course, oreak-up, Standard Oil or AT&T style. Under this scenario the company would be split into a number of "Baby Bills", each of which retains one or more product lines



OUTLOOK

from the original behemoth. Anstate attorneys-general, would be to auction off the rights to Windows. preventing Microsoft from using it as leverage in other markets.

All three aim to tackle the central problem - the operating system. It is Microsoft's use of its virtual monopoly in Windows that has, the government alleges, enabled it to muscle in on the internet browser market. Each tries to dilute that power; Microsoft's is a form of arms control, while the other two approaches are more like the division the end of the Second World War.

moves very quickly. Even while the trial was underway, AOEs linkup with Netscape changed the competitive landscape. Microsoft is arguing from this that it is in a competitive market, and that it is not guilty as charged. But if it does not start giving ground, then the case could drag on for months, years even. At a time when Microsoft faces some very tricky strategic issues, that cannot be in Bill Gates' interest.

Sainsbury's

DID SHE jump or was she pushed? And does it really matter? The departure of Rosemary Thorne as finance director of Sainsbury's has been on the cards for a while now and analysts say the poor woman's job was being offered around at least year ago. So in that sense her demise is hardly a surprise.

She may not have been one of life's more charismatic personalities. And her wooden, stilted presentations, where she stuck doggedly to a rehearsed script, were awkward to say the least.

means the FTSE 100 has one fewer female executive directors, leaving just a handful such as Marjorie Scardino at Pearson and Kathleen O'Donovan at BTR-

Secondly it begs the question why Sainsbury's persisted with such an odd board structure for so

When Ms Thorne was appointed to the Sainsbury's board seven years ago she reported to David Sainsbury who had just spent 17 years as finance director himself. She was always in his shadow as a result, performing the role of financial controller rather than the kind of powerful, lateral thinker that a company of Sainsbury's size ought to have.

Yet even when Dino Adriano took on the chief executive's job the post of finance director remained a downgraded function. Ms Thorne reported not direct to the chief executive but to David Bremner, the deputy chief executive. It was almost as if the company needed to have someone looking over her shoulder.

This set-up was odd to say the least. Nor did it help that Ms terday joined the list of those

time, in the world of software, some important points. First, it Thorne happened to preside over downgrading their growth fore-Sainsbury's finances at a difficult casts for Euroland.

> But there is a wider point. It is an important function of a board. particularly of a major company, that it grooms its top managers for the top and ensures an orderly succession. In better managed companies, the finance director ought to be at least a contender for the top job just as David Reid was at Tesco. Rosemary Thorne, for all

her qualities, was never that. Sainsbury's has been criticised in the recent past for being a cosy family company that required an injection of new blood from outside. Yesterday's mmi-shake-up ilhistrates that it is also struggling to develop talent from within.

Euroland

IT IS just one thing after another for the euro. An almighty row from day one between the German finance minister and the European Central Bank. The outhreak of war on the Continent. And the economy starts to misbehave too - the European Commission yes-

But these may be as nothing compared to the political difficulties presented by gathering 11 different welfare states under a single currency. A series of research papers presented at the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society yesterday underlined the potential for trouble. The first hot potato is the is the pressure for fiscal transfers, of which social spending forms a large part, between countries inthe single currency area.

The conventional wisdom is that social security will remain very much in the hands of individual member states. Even more than taxation, it is seen as a national matter. But this is likely to prove unsustainable. Just as the US Federal Government transfers money between states, transfers within Europe will eventually form one of the mechanisms for making the single currency work well for a collection of differing economies. These transfers are likely to become a Brussels matter. Not only does social security spending forming 28 per cent of

mand management tool, rising in bad times and falling in good times. A country doing well can help out one doing badly if welfare spending can be financed across borders

The second issue is the increased transparency created by the aingle currency. This will apply not just to consumer prices but also to living standards. People will easily be able to compare their level of benefits or, cruciaily, pensions. There is likely to be pressure to level up. It could be disastrous given the looming pensions burden in many Continental countries where pensions are both generous and largely un-

The debate is one that policymakers chose to ignore in the run up to the launch of the single currency. Neither the likelihood of bigger budget transfers nor the need for pension reform was likely to win European hearts and

With the euro's current troubles the discussion is hardly likely to start now. But it will in the end force itself to the attention of even the higgest ostriches in

Silverstone unveils plan to fight off bids

THE BRITISH Racing Drivers Club (BRDC) unveiled ambitious plans yesterday to unlock the value of its verstone grand prix racetrack and keep the site, worth up to £50m, out of the hands of hostile hidders.

Silverstone holds the licence from Bernie Ecclestone - an honorary member of the BRDC - to run the British Grand Prix until 2001, when the contract is due to be renegotiated. The club plans to build a £15m luxury hotel overlooking the racetrack and a 400,000 square foot hitech business park next door.

Lord Hesketh, BRDC president, said the plans, formulated with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, were designed to "protect the club, protect Silverstone and enfranchise the members"

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Under the restructuring the core assets of the BRDC, chiefly the Silverstone racetrack, will be ring-fenced and a board of guardians appointed to oversee them.

The club will retain the track's freehold and rent it to a new company, Silverstone Circuits Group (SCG), which will commercialise the club's operations.

At least three parties have expressed an interest in taking over Silverstone: Tom Walkinshaw, owner of TWR; Nicola Foulston, owner of rival track Brands Hatch; and John Lewis, a former BRDC director. The BRDC was founded after the

Brabham, and to promote British racing. Its emergence as a potentially lucrative bid target has taken many of its 834 members by surprise.

The club's members, comprising 526 current and former racing drivers and 308 associated and honorary members, will be able to buy shares in SCG. Lord Hesketh said the company may float in around five years' time, giving members such as Jackie Stewart, Damon Hill and Martin Brundle a possible payout.

"We will make a presentation to members at the annual meeting on 23 April and then there will be an extraordinary meeting for them to vote on the proposals," said Lord Hesketh, who himself built Grand Second World War for racing drivers Prix cars and ran the team for the such as Stirling Moss and Jack late James Hunt in the 1970s.



Corporate Services board faces axe

THREE OF the City's largest fund By PETER THAL LARSEN managers yesterday joined forces to eject most of the board of Corporate Services after the employment and training services company issued its second profit warning this month.

Mercury Asset Management, M&G and Schroders, which together control 31.59 per cent of Corporate Services, have called an extraordinary general meeting to remove the company's chairman, commercial director and three non-executive directors after losing confidence in them.

The drastic move followed just hours after Corporate Services warned that its operating profits for the year to December would be around £20m. Just three weeks ago, the company said profits would be about £33.5m – already well below market expectations.

Corporate Services shares lost al-

most 10 per cent of their value on the news, closing at 70p. They touched a high of 261p last year.

The shareholders are understood to have pressed for management changes after the first profit warning, but were unhappy at the pace of change. Roger Eden, the chief executive, resigned last Thursday but the chairman, Jeffrey Fowler, is believed to have refused to go.

The shareholders were also concerned about the lack of information put out by the company and its advisers, Investec Henderson Crosthwaite, after the profit warning.

Michael Davies, the non-executive chairman of National Express, the trains and buses group, has been lined up to take over as a director of the

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CLASSIFIED

THE SCULPTURE COMPANY The Issolvency Act 1986 NOTICE IS FLEREBY CAIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kennick Place, London With 3FF on 1st April 1999 at 2.15 pm for the purposes mentloned in

on 1st April 1999 at 2.15 pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Resolutions proposed at the Meeting of Creditions may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator or Liquidators' are to be remuserated. The Meeting may also receive information about, or be asked to approve, the cost of preparing the statement of affairs and conversing the Meeting of Creditors.

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office. Sherlock House, 7 Kerrick Place, London With 18th not 1200 noon on 31st Auarth 1999. For the purposes of voting, a

assessed.
Notice is further given that a fet of the names and acklesues of the Company's crediturs may be impected, free of charge, at Sheelock House, 7 Kennack Place. London W1H 3FF between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two bureness days preceding that date of the meeting stated

above.
Dated this 25th of March 1999
By Order of the Board
P DAVIDSON DAVIS, Director

(Companies Act 1985, n 175) FORSHAW LIMITED (Registered in England No. 901102) TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN otice is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act 1985 that:

(1) The above-named company has approved a payment out of capital for approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own Name of purchase.

12) The amount of the permissable capital payment for the shares in question is £35, 791.14 and the resolution approving such payment out of capital was passed on 29 March 1999.

(3) The statistics declaration of the director and the andiror's report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the company's registered office at York Chambers, Croft Road, Crowburough, East Sussex, TV6 10L 44 Are creditor of the company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 29 March 1999 apply to the court under section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment. David 31 March 1999 L W BRAY Company Secretary

Unusual Gifts

A NEWSPAPER for that opecial date, 1842-1999, mod titles avail-able, ideal birthday gift. Remem-bor When, Tait: 018-763 6263, Or CALL FREE 0500 520 000.

Legal Notices Bendix Parts Limited THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN PURSUANT TO SECTION 27 OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925

PUISUANT TO SECTION 27
OF THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925
Re: the trusts of the Bendix
Parts Limited Retirement
Benefitis Scheme ("the
Scheme") established by a
Deed dated 17th Jenuary,
1974 made between DBA (UK)
Limited and the then Trustees
of the Scheme.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GRVEN
that any person having a claim
against or interest in the
Scheme which is subject to the
Trusts of the above-mentioned
instrument whereof Linda
Maurer, do AlliedSignat
Altermarket Europe BV, 47-63
rus Raspaill, LevaBios-Perret
Codox, 92594, France and
Keith Drew, do FriaM Europe
Limited, Liantisent, Pontyclun,
Mid Glamorgan CF72 BYL are
the present Trustees to hereby
required to send particulars in
whong of his claim or interest to
the undersigned on or before
31st May, 1999 after which date
the Trustees will proceed to
destribute the assets of the Trust
amongot the persons entitled
then have had notice and the
said Trustees will not as
respects the assets of the trust
or any part thereof so
distributed be liable to any
person whose claim or interest
they shall not then have had
notice.

R. Latham H. Latham,
Secretary to the Trustees.
Bendix Parts Limited
Retirement Benefits Scheme,
c/o Hewith Associates,
Pruspect House,
Abbrev View,
St. Albers,
Herts AL1 20U

The Implement Act 1986 ORBIT TRADE ELHIBITIONS & CONFERENCES (UR) LIMITED Trading Name: ORBITEC

NOTICE IS MIRETY GREEN CATEN pursuant to Section 96 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MERTING of the CREEN-TORS of the above named Company will be held on 14th April 1999 at 4 Charleshower Square, Loraton ECIAM 66N at 1200 atoms for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the

mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maunce Raymond Domington, FIPA. of Poppleton & Appletor, 4 Chairenhoure Square, London, ECIM 62N is apported to act as the qual-fied brookency Pacificoner pursuant to Section 90028al of the said Act who will lamesh credition, free of chairm.

charge, with such entomation con-cerning the Company's affact as they may reasonably respect. Dated this 23rd day of March 1999 By Order of the Board SYETLANA ME NEE, Director

Chat Lines

No. 001148 OF 1999 CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF SIWATER INDUSTRIES

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 17th day of March 1999 confirming the reduction of the issued share capital of from £7,500,000 £4,036,199 and the Minute

approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital as altered the several carticulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 25th day of March 1999. Dated this 31st day of

Herbert Smith Primrose Street Solicitors (or the Company

Legal Notices No. 1637 of 1999 JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF **EMERGING COMPANIES**

was registered by the 36th March, 1999.

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FOAMS

IN THE MATTER OF THE MISOLVENCY ACT 1966 AND IN THE MATTER O K, CHELLARAM & SONS (LONDON) LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEEBEY CAPPA in a goodware with Rule 4,106 that we, Tracey Bizabe Caleghan and Peter John Roberton Souse of Baker 18th, 2 Bloowshay Steet, Londo WCIB 35th were appointed Joint Liquidation of the correspony on 23 March 1999 is Messhers and Cecifions.

NOTICE S ASSO HREETY GNVN that & creditors of the above named compon which he being wohatably wound to. a required, on or before 27 April 1999 rend at least some and advicence, with particular than the second of the company and the company and its or required by mixed which he had been seen to the company, and it so required by mixed relies to the company, and it so required by mixed relies such too and place as their benefit of such motion, or in default thereof they we be excluded from the benefit of a distribution scale before such sichs a proven. IN LIQUIDATION

INVESTMENT TRUST PLC IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY

the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 24th March, 1999, confirming reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company from £18,926,324 to from £18,926,324 to £8,926,324 (being a reduction of £10,000,000)

Dated 29th March, 1999. Simmons & Simmons London EC2M 2TX

Tel: 0171-628 2020 5/W59042/RES/CZH/ACR Solicitors for the above-

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IN BRIEF

Zergo to get dual listing on Nasdag ZERGO, the Internet security

software group, is preparing to deliver a snub to the Stock Exchange by obtaining a dual listing on Nasdaq, the US exchange, in the next year The company said it was

selecting a bank to advise it on

the listing, which is likely to be

information technology sector

THE EUROPEAN Commission

vesterday cleared the alliance

between British Telecom and

AT&T, opening the way for the

\$10bn (£6,2bn) joint venture to

summer. The deal was cleared

after AT&T agreed to sell its

UK division, ACC, and agreed

the cable operator of which it

combined with a fundraising.

The Stock Exchange's new

is due to go live this week.

BT go-ahead

start trading later this

to a "greater structural

owns 22 per cent.

separation" from Telewest

broadcaster, seems to have embarked on a policy of talking down its shares. They fell 61p to 1,220p following what was described as "cautious" investment meetings that prompted some analysts to reduce profit estimates.

The former East Midlands Allied Press had the dubious distinction of heading the list of Footsie fallers; only last week the shares joined the blue-chip index, reflecting their recent strong performance and expansion moves.

The market seemed to get the impression that Emap was playing down expectations for its recent US acquisition and was pointing to the tough competition it faced in the domestic magazine market. Analysts fretted about the launch of Heat, Emap's new listings title. Circulation appeared to be well below expectations and the publication could be a drag on next year's performance.

MEARS, the maintenance services group, is expected to produce profits of £1.2m this year after lifting last year's figure by 26 per cent to £821,000. Group turnover rose by 25 per cent to £19.5m.

Eaglet Investment Trust, the small company specialist run by Peter Webb, has moved into Mears, picking up a 12 per cent interest in the group. taking the total

institutional shareholder representation to around 50 per cent of the capital.

BT Alex.Brown, the company's stockbroker, was among those to lower profit estimates. Warburg Dillon Read reduced its target price to 1,200p from 1,300p. Morgan Stanley cut its profits forecast to £160m for the year ending today, with a £199m estimate for the following year. It lifted its target price to 1,400p. Last year the group produced profits of

Mirror, the newspaper publisher in the takeover arena. showed Emap (and others) how to strengthen their shares get an Internet connection. The price rose 6p to 211p after it revealed it had formed an interactive services division offering free Internet access.

Footsie, for once, ignored a weak New York display, closing with a modest 11.2-point gain to 6,264.1. Supporting indices were firm. Once again trading was busy with the usual end-March considerations, plus the late rush into PEPs, encouraging another day of high

share volume. Hopes of lower interest rates continued to circulate and

5.89m (6.3m) 80.86m (42.37m) 24 05m (17.88m) 38.49m (34.06m)



the market confidently looked forward to another round of corporate activity, with the BP Amoco deal with Atlantic Richfield expected to be announce today as well as Imperial Chemical Industries' £2bn selloff. But slim hopes that En-terprise Oil will finally tie the knot with Lasmo were dashed after the market closed when their merger talks, to nobody's

surprise, were called off. BP firmed 2p to 1,079p; ICI shaded to 560p; Enterprise rose 14.5p to 367.5p and Lasmo slipped 1.75p to 133.75p.

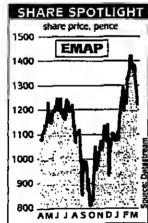
SmithKline Beecham, reflecting hopes of drugs bid fever, rose 36.5p to 892p; Zeneca, as its mega-merger with Sweden's Astra was about to be sealed, hit a 2,945p peak,

up 110p. Pilkington, the glass group, remained high on the specu-lative list, gaining 4p (after 8.5p) on talk of an overseas strike

Centrica, the gas group, fell 4.25p to 109p as Deutsche Morgan Grenfell placed 41 million shares sold by two institutions.

Storehouse, the BhS retail chain, continued to attract support as whispers of a US strike again went the rounds. The shares rose 8.5p to 145p in brisk trading, But Safeway's flirtation with the speculators ended, at least for the time being, with the shares off 9.75p at 2440.

Boots was another to feel an analytical kick. The price fell 28.5p to 892p after Merrill Lynch turned cautious, citing a slowdown in margin growth. Bid action - fact and fiction - was again evident on the un-



COMPANY RESULTS

Pre-tax (£)

0.938m (2.20m 8.35m (3.83m)

dercard Stanley Leisure, a shade lower at 297.5p, agreed a 85p-a-share offer for Capital Corporation, the casino operator, little changed at 81p. Adscene, the publisher rose 38.50 to 1990 after reporting a

bid approach. Even pubs chain Inn Business, filted by Enterprise Inns in favour of Century Inns, managed a 3p gain to 69.5p. Waterfall, the snooker group, made another attempt to pot European Leisure, saying it had made a 100p share exchange offer, European, seeking to merge with Allied Leisure, rejected the "indica-tive" bid. Waterfall was the

ing 1.5p to 58p.
Brent International, the chemical group, fell 4.5p to 95.5p as some investors grew tired of waiting for the long running takeover talks to produce a result. There is also a growing suspicion that the negotiations have hit problems and

only one of the trio to move, los-

MACRO 4, the software group where new management is in charge, ahould lift profits in the year to June by around £2m to £26.25m, believes stockbroker Greig Middleton. Its analysts, Judy Stewart and Dominic Wilson, are going for £29m

The company's shares are tightly held, but the analysts believe the group could be tempted to go along the takeover trail and increase its capital by offering shares for acquisitions.

next year.

may soon be called off. Utilitec, an engineering services group, added 4.5p to 24.5p as a management buyout was mooted, Devro, a sausage skin maker, sizzled 19p to 142p on talk of an mbo.

Taylor Nelson Sofres, the information and marketing group, was busily traded on vague talk of corporation action, gaining 1.25p to 138p. Metal Bulletin, which has enjoyed speculative flurries in the past, firmed 75p to 1,625p.

six outlets in the City, talked of tough trading and its shares fell 16.5p to 137.5p. Halma, the engineer, lost 2.5p to 96.5p after HSBC made cautious noises. The expected profits gloom at Corporate Services lowered the shares 6.5p to 71p.

AEA Technologies continued to suffer from its warning that profits will be flat, falling a further 33.5p to 348.5p. The shares have been as high as 1,030p in the past 12 months.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.09 billion SEAQ TRADES: n/a GILTS INDEX: 113.36 -0.05

09.06.99 09.06.99 16.06.99 08.07.99 07.06.99 24.05.99 01.07.99

21.05.99 05.05.99 01.07.99 14.05.99 25.06.99

INVESTMENT

Cautious Emap Rugby's £250m sell-off feels the heat nermits Scancem bids permits Scancem bids

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

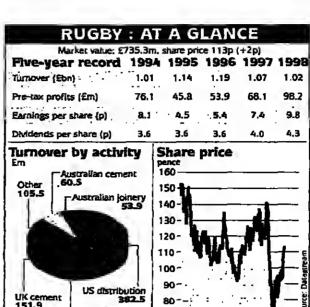
RUGBY, Britain's third-biggest cement producer is to use the proceeds of a £250m disposal programme to bid for assets in Scancem, the Nordic building materials giant

The UK group yesterday pleased the City with radical plans to sell all its joinery and materials businesses to focus on cement and lime operations.

Rugby said it was in advanced talks with Jeld-Wen, a private US company, over the sale of its US, UK and Australian joinery companies, which make doors and windowframes, and its US distribution subsidiary. The disposals are likely to net Rugby over £250m. They will involve the loss of £700m of sales. 70 per cent of group turnover.

The chief executive, Peter Johnson, said the sales would help Rugby make inroads into the global cement market. "The cement industry is like a jungle and you cannot go into the jungle with one eye on the joinery husiness," he said.

Funds raised will enable Sweden and Aker of Norway.
Rugby to participate in the auc-



tion for Scancern, numer of Castie Cement, the second-ranked UK cement maker. The Scandinavian company is being sold by its joint owners, Skanska of

from European building materials groups, including CRH of Ireland, France's Lafarge and British group RMC.

70 1994 95 96 97 98 1999

Analysts believe Rugby will not be able to buy the whole group, but could hid for its east are a good speculative buy.

owns firms in Finland, the Baltic States and Poland, which fit with Rugby's Polish business.

The UK company could also huy parts of Castle Cement, although buying the entire group would be blocked on competition grounds.

News of the sales and potential purchases overshadowed Rugby's 1998 results. The group posted a small increase in operating profit to £76.9m on sales down 4 per cent to £1.02bn.

Analysts said the restructuring raised the chance of a bid for Rugby. "[After the disposals] they are a very tidied-up company. If there is a predator, Rugby is doing all the dirty work for them," said David Taylor of Teather & Greenwood.

After the sale of Castle Cement, Rugby will be the only large UK cement producer available to huy. It could attract European giants such as La-farge and CRH, believe analysis. Profit forecasts for 1999 and the p/e ratio are now academic, but given the bid prospects Rugby's shares, up 2p to 113p yesterday,

Under the joint venture

which will have turnover of

£800m, the three partners will

each inject assets and cash

worth £75m. Highland will put in

its distribution network and

sales force, valued at £45m, and

£30m cash. The funds will come

from the repayment of a £90m

News of the venture offset

Highland's disappointing in-

terims, sending the shares 0.5p

higher to 232p. Pre-tax profits

slipped 6 per cent to £23.5m as

demand for cheaper whiskies

was bit by the Asian down-

turn. Analysts downgraded full-

year forecasts from £45m to

£42m, leaving the shares on a

forward multiple of about 10.

bond from Remy Cointreau.

Terranova says no TERRANOVA FOODS repeated its rejection of Unigate's 2228.5m hostile bid yesterday but conceded that price is the key issue rather than strategic logic. Unveiling its defence document, Terranova said the 125p cash offer undervalued the company and failed to recognise the importance of its position in growing chilled foods markets and the strategic value of its continental European operations.

Scotia upbeat

SCOTIA EXPECTS to move into profit in three years, the drug development company said yesterday as it unveiled a £23.6m loss for 1998, down from a £26.6m loss in 1997. The company expects Foscan, its photosensitising drug, which is injected at the site of tumours and then exposed directly to a laser that destroys cancerous cells, to come to the US market next year.

Elementis

IN YESTERDAY'S newspaper a brief item mistakenly appeared under the beading "Elementis shock", which said that the company had issued a profit warning and that the shares bad lost 27 per cent in value. In fact, this was a version of a story which appeared in November 1998. was 9.4 per cent with the new deat they are | Elementis shares were worth holding despite the un- unchanged on Monday at 93p. We apologise for this error

Selfridges to review Highland in £800m Oxford Street site link-up with Remy

SELFRIDGES, the department BY NIGEL COPE store group, is to undertake a review of its flagship Oxford Street site in London as a £100m seven-year refurbishment programme nears completion.

In addition to the upgraded 90-year-old store, the site includes Selfridges Hotel, a car park and several floors of office and warehouse space that may be better used as retail selling space. An update is expected at the time of the company's interim results in September.

The announcement came as Selfridges announced betterthan-expected full-year results following its demerger from Sears last summer. Trading profits were 14 per

cent ahead at £24.2m, excluding £7.6m of exceptional charges arising from the demerger. port, as does the Oxford Street group already owns 9.4 per cent. There was further good news on freehold valuation of 212p per of highland, which in turn concurrent trading sales at the share Aweakhold, say analysts. trois 2 per cent of Remy.

Philip Green

sets off alarm

SEVERAL SELFRIDGES peo-

ple were recalling yesterday

how they first encountered

Philip Green, the man who

bought the Sears stores chain

ridges demerged a year ago,

hut they continue to share

offices on the top floor of the Ox-

ford Street department store.

When Sears succumbed to

Mr Green's hostile hid the

Selfridges staff realised they

faced the risk of bumping into

the corporate raider in the

In fact, this didn't happen.

The only evidence of Mr

Green's presence was the fire

alarm, which kept going off when he entered the building.

Apparently Mr Green's cigars

But that seems to have

stopped. As one Selfridges in-

sider said yesterday: "Maybe

Mr Green is a bit more relaxed

were the problem.

a couple of months ago.

Associate City Editor

Oxford Street shop are ahead by 7 per cent on a like-for like basis. Sales at the new store at Trafford Park in Manchester are ahead of expectations, with a profit contribution of £400,000 in the first 20 weeks' trading.

But analysts said that if Selfridges bad to pay rent on the Oxford Street store, where it owns the freehold, the group would harely be breaking even. The shares - up by 8p to a

new high of 250p yesterday-are trading on a forward multiple of 19 times current-year earnings forecasts, a level that is starting to look quite high. On the plus side, the 3.6 per cent stake beld by British Land offers bid sup-

PEOPLE AND

BUSINESS

By John

WILLCOCK

AND SO another American flies

in to help rebuild the fortunes

New Jersey, is joining Barclays

as managing director of its

wealth management business,

after three years at the helm of

Standard & Poor's financial in-

spent 28 years with Chase Man-

hattan, will be joining in May.

clays's new chief executive, fel-

who himself arrives to assume

command of the banking group

What with Bob Diamond

He is well known to Bar-

low American Mike O'Neill, DTI panel

running the bank's investment partment of Trade and Industry

Mr Hunter, who previously

Robert Hunter, a native of

of Barclays Bank

formation services.

on Monday week.

Of course, Sears and Set- Barclays' yanks

scotch maker, yesterday moved to boost its presence in the global drinks market with a £800m distribution agreement with the French group Remy Cointreau and Jim Beam of the US. The joint venture will oper-

HIGHLAND DISTILLERS, the BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

ate in all major markets outside the US to promote and distribute premium brands, including Remy Martin cognac, Famous Grouse and Macallan whiskies, Jim Beam bourbon and Piper Heidsieck champagne.

Highland said the deal would "significantly" cut distribution costs and boost sales. But it is set to lead to some job losses in the three groups' 150-strong UK distribution workforce. It also deepens ties between Highland and Remy; the French

banking arm, Barclays Capital,

the post-Martin Taylor Bar-

clays is turning into something

I wonder what the bank's

Quaker founders from the Eng-

lish Midlands - the Cobbolds,

Gurneys, Goslings and Bux-

tons - would have made of it all.

Furness, who is leaving Bar-

Still only 49, Mr Furness is

looking for a larger job, possibly

EIGHT NEW members have

been appointed to the panel

that is maintained by the De-

in financial services.

Mr Hunter succeeds Steve

of an American club.

certain market conditions.

for dealing with newspaper Joyce Hopkirk, the former Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). When a merger is referred to

the MMC, up to three members of the panel may be seconded to the MMC to help decide on that particular deal.

The new panel members include Eve Pollard, former editor of the Sunday Mirror, Professor Donald Trelford, ex-editor of The Observer, and Charles Wilson, former managing director of Mirror Group and a former editor of The

Kim Howells, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, has also clays after 27 years with the appointed five others: Sarwar Ahmed, who founded Eastern Eye in 1989; Linda Christmas, director of the post-graduate course in newspaper journalism at City University, London; William Gibson, former managing director of Financial Times Business Information; Gerry Holbrook, former

managing director of York-shire Post Newspapers, and

mergers that are referred to the launch editor of Cosmopoli-

On the move

DR DAVID U'PRICHARD, who stepped down as chairman of research and development at SmithKline Beecham recently after only 18 months in the job, has popped up as a non-executive director of RiboTargets, a Cambridge-based biotechnology company

Dr U'Prichard, 50, was international research director at Zeneca Pharmaceuticals between 1994 and 1997, when he moved to SmithKline Beecham.

RiboTargets was formed in July 1997 to commercialise revolutionary developments in the understanding of RNA, the link between the genetic information contained in DNA and protein synthesis.

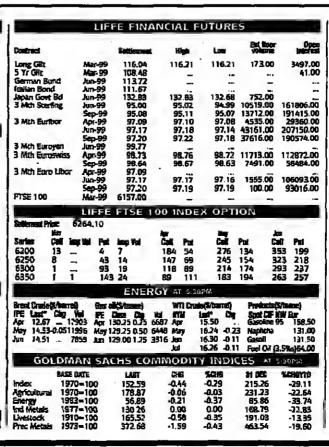
The company is involved in developing a range of drugs to combat HIV and Hepatitis C.

E-mail: j.willcock@indepen-

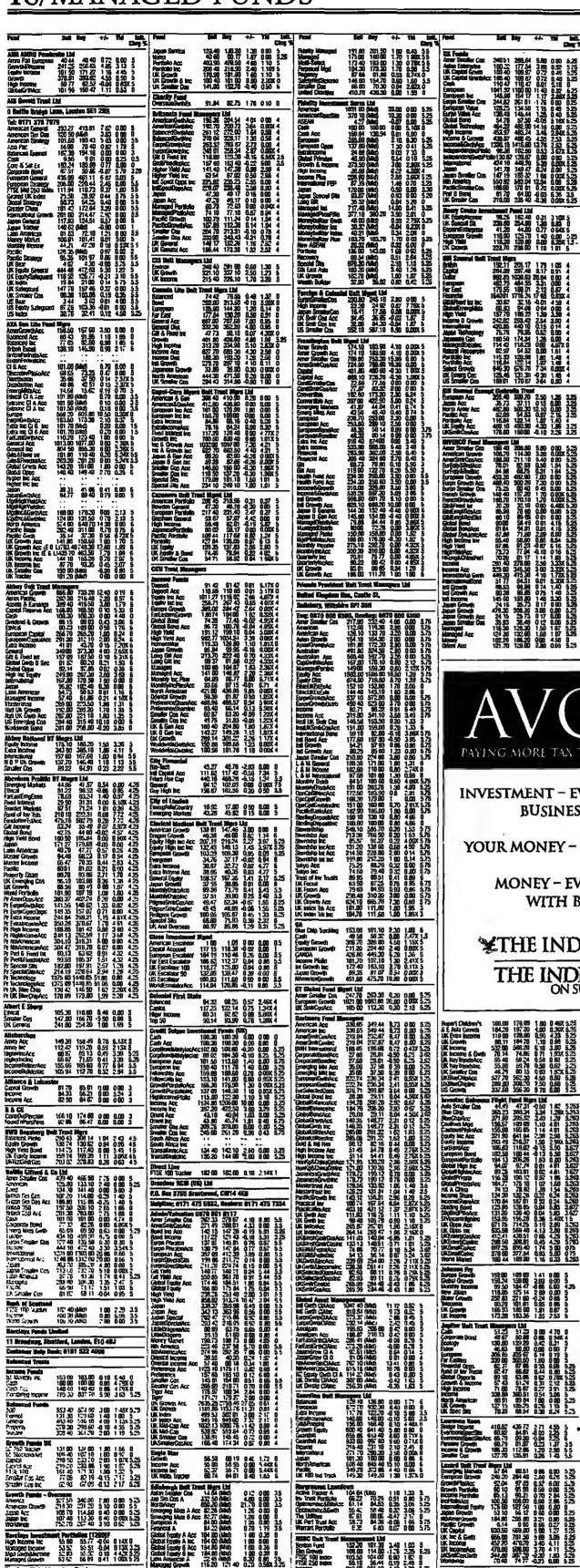
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Chiana Cassana	ukations (F)	80.86m	42.37m)		n (3.83m)	4.5	b (3-8b)
Christene (F)		24 05m	17.68m)		n (5.1m)	7.6	p (5.3p)
Decades Propo	the Genetic (F)		34.06m)	3.250	п (3.25Ф)	12.80	p (13.07p)
Contact to the				6.91	n (7.13m)	7.87	p (9.55p)
	-	48.39m			n (7.57m)	20.1	p (22.2p)
tements (F)	-	279.7m			n (38.6m)		p (10,01p)
Fredrick Street	(I)	112.4m	119 7ml		n (25.1m)	11,8	p (12.5p)
Hell Inchiel		8.5m (1	0.25ml		n (D.939m)	16.98	(14.77p)
Siders Techno		6.3m (1	(02 57m)	14.36	n (11.49m)		p (9.16p)
tendelph Tack			(83.57m)	-2 49	g (-2.83m)		ip (-5.5p)
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'My job is not to look after me but the nippers who want to do what I did in 1954-55, and go to every home match'

Banks busy playing great games



THE BRIAN VINER INTERVIEW

ACCORDING TO The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks (Robson Books, £7.99), the left-wing MP's response when Tony Blair phoned to ask if he fancied becoming Minister for Sport was: "Is the Pope Catholic?" I can now exclusively reveal that this is untrue. For, in a rather grand committee room at the House of Commons. Banks fills me in on the precise details of his exchange with Blair. "I'm not an ambitious politician," he explains. "Tve never been much of a team player. I'm a bit semi-detached, as they say. I hadn't even supported his leadership bid. So it caught me completely on the What did he actually say, then? "I think that my exact words were: 'Fuck me'!"

Not the wittiest or wisest response, perhaps, but at least an honest one. And a brace of words, moreover, that must have echoed round Westminster, if not the country, when Banks' appointment was announced. For, as he is the first to

'I've never been much of a team player. I'm a bit semi-detached. I hadn't even supported Tony Blair's leadership bid'

admit, the dapper 55-year-old MP for se party line. Indeed, when the In-sependent photographer arrives. he shows just how unpredictable he is. His right profile, he tells us, is better than his left.

Returning for a moment to The Wit and Wisdom of Tony Banks, the Sports Minister is quoted as saying that: "I couldn't possibly emulate the feats of one D Mellor Since the great days of Jimmy Greaves, it's the only time anyone's managed to score five times in a Chelsea shirt. The question we were all asking, of course, is did they change ends at

Whether or not he was correctly quoted, this is a reference, as everyone knows, to the extramarital froiics of his fellow Chelsea fan David Mellor To me, Banks points out that, compared with his own 45-year love offair, Mellor is "with great respect, a relative newcomer to Chelsea". But never mind football allegiances, or even Antonia de Sancha. I am eager to know what Banks really thinks of Mellor, head of football's socalled Task Force. For, except in their regard for Gianluca Vialli's squad rotation system, they are hardly

"I proposed his appointment to the Task Force," says Banks. "From a political point of view, it would have been easier to find someone else. sporting issues and damned if he



Tony Banks has courted controversy as Minister for Sport but not even his detractors would deny that be has a formidable appetite for the job Robert Hallam

wanted someone with ministerial experience, with a knowledge of football and a feeling for football, and someone who knew how far government could go. We also wanted someone with a platform, which David had with Six-0-Six [the Radio

Five Live phone-in]. "Love him or hate him, he does have a useful position in the game. And I've been very grateful for the enormous amount of work he has done without any remuneration but a lot of insults. When I look at the quality of the Task Force's reports, I think my choice has been vindicated. I am perfectly happy

Like Mellor, Banks is more used to receiving brickbats than bouquets. In particular, he was slated, as was his boss Tony Blair, for interfering in l'affaire Hoddle. But there is a sense in which he is damned if he offers his opinion on

But it was a choice for football. We doesn't, and he is jolly pleased with

me for pointing this out. "You've put your finger on it," he says. "Actually, it was the Independent who first phoned me up on the Friday night to ask about Glenn Hoddle, and I tried to keep out of it. But by the next day there was such a controversy raging, and so all I said was that I thought his position was be-coming untenable. You can interpret that as you will. At no point did I say he should resign. I know Glenn Hoddle pretty well. He is a decent guy. But he got out of his depth. And although he is fully entitled to his opinion, it was dangerous to talk about reincarnation when his source was not some learned religion but have fought to have chess recoga faith-healer who was herself unable to explain what it was all about I heard an interview in which she suggested that a child starving in Africa could have been Hitler in a previous life. That's a statement which, at the very least, can be

Ten minutes has passed and still the great cootroversialist has said nothing particularly controversial, even if some folk might quibble with the view that David Mellor is a boon to football. In an attempt to up the ante, I ask Banks to expand on a remark attributed to him to the effect that darts should become an

Olympic sport. "Don't laugh at me for saying it should be," he says, "tell me why it shouldn't be. I think it's perfectly reasonable. Darts is a very good sport and millions of people play it. Archery is a recognised Olympic sport, after all. And the definition of what is sport is highly subjective. I nised as a sport, and it is not a semantic point, because once it is recognised as a sport it can receive Sports Council money. Besides, sports go in and out of fashion. Not many people know that we are still the Olympic tug-of-war champions,

and 1912 or whatever. France, South Africa at rugby. And we all believe it or not, are still the Olympic champions at cricket. Well, it's no more ridiculous having darts in the Olympics than tug-of-war."

The idea of men shaped like Jocky Wilson and Leighton Rees try- and uniting the country in a way ing to climb the Olympic podium of a Sid Waddell murmuring "he's I'm not suggesting that politicians just three arrers away from Olympic gold, but first, a sip of lager" - is, I have to say, irresistible. Banks has won me over completely. But, even if I had wanted to take issue, it would not have been easy. For be talks about nearly everything with passion verging on vehemence, combined with a politician's unwavering self-

belief. "Without doubt, sport is one of the strongest motivating forces within a community, be it a village, a town, a city or a country," he continues. "Even if you are not necessarily interested in sport, you still feel the vibes of sporting success, having won gold medals in 1908 for instance when England heat

saw the scenes when France won the World Cup. Here was a country not really addicted to football, and divided by racism, fielding the most ethnically mixed team imaginable politicians could only dream about. use sport, although some have. I am suggesting that we put more resources in and give it a higher political priority. But sport needs a more effective lobby. If I have to do

Hang on. Who's this devil exactly. Tony Blair? Margaret Thatcher? Arsene Wenger ("I would rather die than go to Arsenal" - Tony Banks, Hansard, 5 May, 1994)? Disappointingly, Banks plays a straight bat. "The devil is inside you," he explains. "But there are other problems. Sport is so much bigger than it used to be, so enormous demands are being made of structures root-

a deal with the devil, I will get an

effective lobby."

ed in the 19th century. We gave many modern sports to the world, but we haven't moved on structurally. That's why there are problems with the administration of football, of rugby union, rugby league, snook er... I keep telling the governing bodies that they need to put far more pressure on government to win 'Put more pressure on me'

Indeed. Not even the detractors of Tony Banks would deny that he has a formidable appetite for his job, and is moved by a sincere desire to improve Britain's sporting institu-tions. Which is all well and good, but his fine intentions have not yet reduced the cost of watching Premiership football, for instance, which for many people remains all but prohibitive. Take his own beloved Chelsea. What does his season ticket cost?

"It costs £1,250," he says. "And it's going up to £1,400. Which I pay hecause I am hooked into it, and I like seeing stars playing for Chelsea, and I like the facilities at Stamford Bridge, but, yes, my joh is not to look after me but the nippers who would like to do what I did in 1954-55, and go to every single home match.

"Football has to he careful that it doesn't exclude its future fan base. I have asked the Task Force in its final report to address merchandising, ticket prices, strip prices, to see whether there is a coherent case for some sort of regulator who can intervene without disrupting the structure of football and protect the interests of the fans. Of course, it would be better for football to address these concerns itself. It has an opportunity to

There are so many people in sport too busy fighting their own little turf wars to see the bigger picture'

regulate itself more effectively, but allow things to drift."

Moreover, Banks reckons that be has no time to allow things to drift. "What can be given with a phone call can be taken away. I haven't got the luxury of going slow, but I am constantly frustrated by the piecemeal, patchwork, divisive shape of sport in this country. People don't know how fragmented it is. There are five sports councils and four sports ministers. Actually, I believe in a dimension called Britain. It happens when we go to the Olympics. We might see ourselves as four countries, but in sporting terms, the world sees us as one."

At last, a whiff of controversy. It appears that Tony Banks, firm supporter of Scottish and Welsh devolution, craves a national football team containing Ryan Giggs as well as Alan Shearer, playing in Belfast and roared on by the Tartan Army. Yes? "All I'll say is that there is a coherent case to be made for a single team in a number of sports," be says, adding: "There are so many people in sport too busy fighting their own little turf wars to see the bigger picture. I can see the bigger picture and sometimes it desponds me and makes me feel very pessimistic. But then we win things and I realise that winning is all in sport." As it is, of course, in politics.

Chelsea wrong to retain Rix

Sir: Writing as a Chelsea supporter who desperately thats to see his club win as many trophies as possible, I find the club's attitude over Graham Rix's conviction totally incomprehensible. I can only wonder if Chelsea's more than generous stance towards the disgraced coach would be so understanding if the girl in question had been Mr Bates'

15-year-old daughter. I think not. Parents of apprentices and Junior players at Chelsea FC should be sleeping uncomfortably at the thought of a registered sex offender possibly coming into contact with their children once he has served his time.

Bill Shankly's adage about "life and football would em totally out of sync with today's moral code. In fact I should imagine he is turning in his grave at some of the current so-called heroes.

So, come on Chelsea, "play up" and do the decent thing. Admit

you made a mistake like your errant coach and put right the moral wrong you have committed to help football repair its As ever-more obscene amounts tarnished image.

Northolt. Middlesex **Bad role model**

LUIS MELVILLE

Sir. The alacrity with which Chelsea FC reassured Graham Rix that his job would be waiting for him when he gets out of prison, after being convicted of having unlawful sex and indecent assault, was yet another depressing indication of the lack of any moral dimension in football's world view.

The game has become little more than a machine for making money. As part of this process, it premotes an aggressive and sc ipsistic model of "maleness".

characterised hy petulant and foul-mouthed immaturity on the pitch and arrogant, sometimes violent behaviour off it

grotesquely misinterpreted."

of money pour into the pockets of the relatively small number of people at the top end of the game, so everything becomes excusable. The men who play the game, the golden geese, are always "the lads", and every appalling piece of hehaviour, particularly towards women, is portrayed as high spirits or, at the worst, a peccadillo, forgivable after a few mumbled, shamefaced platitudes on television. After all, the crowds love it, so who cares?

We should not be surprised. however, if our young males, who are genially encouraged to have an unhealthy obsession with "the game" from the age of four or five upwards, do not just ape the violent and triumphalist

behaviour of their heroes, but adopt some of their more unattractive attitudes as well. Now that it has become de riqueur for the middle classes to proclaim their footballing credentials at every opportunity and dress little Sam and Toby in their favourite club's garish strip, I'm afraid the prep schools of the land may be in for a good deal of

SPORTS LETTERS

behaviour. COLIN JORDAN Chistoick London

unacceptable off-the-ball

Over the top

Sir: Casting a fleeting glance at this week's newspapers, people may have been confused into thinking that England had just won the football World Cup, not completed a 3-1 win over Poland, a team 16 places below them in

the world rankings. A better team than Poland would have exposed England's weak full-backs.

In October, after a goalless draw against Bulgaria, a team just three places below Poland in the Fifa rankings, the press called for Glenn Hoddle's head and supporters were left questioning if England would qualify. We should still question. Both Sweden and, it can be argued, Poland, are in better positions to qualify than England.

Are the press so naïve that a victory ensures we are world beaters, and a loss relegates us to the sidelines?

For Keegan, if this is the pandemonium that surrounds a victory in the first of his four internationals, what will happen if he wins all four? Perhaps he is employing a similar fortune teller to Hoddle. The headlines following Hoddle's first match in

charge, a 3-0 victory away in Moldova, were similar to those Keegan is experiencing now. GARY JACOB

St Catherine's College, Oxford Handled badly

Sir: The second goal scored by Paul Scholes in the Poland game was, quite clearly, handball and should not have been allowed, yet Kevin Keegan was reported to have said something along the lines of "I don't care how be did it. I was just glad to see it go in." No doubt this sentiment will be echoed by the red-tops and all other like-minded exponents of "the glorious game". Are these

the same people who disparaged

Mr Maradona's effort with such

venom? No, surely not. PJ HILL Liverpool

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London EI4 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

column, Alan Watkins has mentioned that England do not tend to use players from abroad. It is interesting to note that a quick check of the Planet Rugby England team details revealed the following: a. Steve Ojomoh, Adedayo

Foreign bodies

Sir: In his excellent weekly rugby

Adebayo and Victor Ubogu are all

h. Mike Catt is as South African as Dion O'Cuinnegain (Irish

c. Kyran Bracken is Irish and has won an Uoder-14 medal with Leinster

d. Kevin Yates is Canadian. It would be a useful exercise to compare the size of the rugby playing population in England to that of the other Home Unions and compare the number of foreigners used by the Scottish. the Irish and the Welsh.

Also, to my knowledge, France use Morroco in much the same way as New Zealand use Western Samoa. It's just that the talent pool is that much smaller.

VAL DAVEY Address supplied

THE FIRST thing you notice about James Hickman is his confidence. Not the sensecringing bombast of Prince Naseem Hamed, who repels almost as readily as he attracts, but the easy calm of a man who

Self-belief drips from him with the same regularity as the water be has dragged from the pool with his powerful frame. Which, considering we are talking about a British swimmer, a breed not known for traveiling to major championships with anything more potent in their luggage than hope, confronts your assumptions. We are good losers handicapped by poor facīlities, aren't we? Nnt Hickman.

"I want to win every 200m hutterfly race between now and Sydney," the 23-year-old Mancunian said - an ample wish-list hut one he has so far fulfilled. You have to go back to February 1998 since Hickman trailed in the slipstream of anynne, which, when you consider Britain's last swimming Olympic gold was won by Adrian Moorhouse 10 years ago, is an acute departure from recent precedent.

Hickman is good. He also knows it. He is Nn1 in the world at the 100 metres and 200m butterfly and is in the top 10 in eight other disciplines, and you do not get ranks like that if you are cowed by others. He wants the impression of his winning to be hurned in the minds of his rivals so he can arrive at next year's Olympics with his opponents half beaten.

The World Shart Course Championships, starting today in Hong Kong, where he defends his 200m title, is part of that image projection.

"I see it as a ladder," he said. "I want people to keep seeing me win. The more I do that the more people will expect me to be there, which will affect my rivals and make it easier for myself. The last time I went to the Olympics I was trying to win; next time I'll be going there to win - which is a totally different thing. I now know I have the

At Atlanta, Hickman was a rare British success, setting national records in the 100m and 200m hutterfly, and his cur-



golds highlighted within it. But tremely fit but sometimes ath-

if that suggests a graph with the line heading resolutely upwards, the impression is wrong. There have been troughs - and lew deeper than the European Championships in Seville in Hickman had arrived in

Spain a strong favourite, but food poisoning debilitated and dehydrated him, so swimming was just about the last thing on his mind, and after withdrawing from the 200m be finished 14th in the shorter event. "Td just won the world short

course and I think there was a little bit of anxiety," he admitted. "I wanted to stay there, to prove I deserved my gold medal - that it wasn't just a case of winning once and never again - so I European and Commonwealth trained too hard. I was ex-nership-"We argued like cats

letes can be on the borderline of becoming ill. I picked up a virus that knocked me for six. I lost a stone in weight in four days. It was 46C most days, incredibly hot and humid, and I as in such a state."

That intestinal turmoil was

was a long way downhill from The 1998 World Champion-

ships were coming up," he said. "I was trying to concentrate on my swimming hut a lot was going on in my head. My times pletely. I had grown up, it was

and dogs at times" - and this was fantastic," he said, "and it's Hickman wanted to concenpaying off now but it got to the point where I had to move on. "Dave and I had been work-

ing together a long time, since I was young, and we grew away from each other com-

'The last time I went to the Olympics I was trying to win; next

time I'll be going there to win. I now know I have the ability'

FORM VERDICT

has a touch of class at this level, and although he may be the Bereldy second string, he makes as much appeal as any. Stablemate Kathryn's Pet should go close too, while The Great

3.55 GODS SOLUTION HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,500 added 7f

42302 KASS ALHAWA (16) (CD) D Crepmen 6 6 3 ... A Cultume 10 00402 BACHELORS PAID (208) D Mchole 5 0 1 J Carroll 15 05635. FINISTERIRE (JS7) (CD) J J O'Nell 6 0 0 K Durley 13 440-04 KeNG UNO (23) (D) E Alston 5 0 0 G Duffield 16 351-52 RAMBO WALTZER (59) (D) (BF) D Nichole 16 11 ... K Fallon 8 06469 JOHN BOWDLEF MUSIC (16) M Jchriston 4 6 11 ... Holland 1 06469 JOHN BOWDLEF MUSIC (16) M Jchriston 4 6 11 ... Holland 1 06469 JOHN BOWDLEF MUSIC (16) M Jchriston 4 6 11 ... Holland 1 06000 BERNARDO BELLOTTO (159) D Nichole 4 8 8 ... F Norton 5 05000 FILEY BIRGG (152) W Normp 4 6 8 ... J Wiesever 8 2 2000 BOLLIN ETHOS (237) (CD) T Existorly 4 8 T ... L Chemick 14 6 05005 LIFT THE OFFER (181) (D) J J Cultum 4 6 R.R Withston (J) 12 7 25462 C-HARRY (9) (D) R Hollinstreed 5 6 3 ... P M Oulton (7) 11 0605 NEYER (GULF GLOFY (15) C Kellet 5 9 3 ... T Williams 77 -18 doclared -

SETTING: 7-2 Rambo Waltor, 5-1 Lunch Perty, 8-1 Royal Mark, Kese Albews, King Uno, 12-1 Jorrocks, Finisterre, Lift The Offer, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A wide-open race. KING UNID, from an in-form yard and com-ing here after giving a broad hint that he was about to hit form again last time, has solid claims, though his outside draw is a concern. Last year's second, Rambo Waltzer, one of the David Nicholls-trained runners, none of whom can be ruled

4.25 TOYTOP MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,000 added 6f

BETTING: 5-4 Gumer Sam, 3-1 Quiet Milite, 4-1 Miss Grapette, 10-7

Suprema Salutation, 12-1 Cumbrien Blue, Press Times, 20-1 Pure Ele-gancia, 28-1 Horton Lights, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT

GUNNER SAM is the clear pick on Juvenile form and though

out, is a Reely danger, as is Lift The Offer.

Flood is worth noting in the market.

my coach. It was a real low." also reflected in Hickman's mind because his relationship In retrospect, his seemingly disappointing fifth place in with the Stockport Metro coach Dave Calleja, who had guided the 200m at Perth can be seen with a rosier tint, but it did not him since he was a child, was change his own view that a split disintegrating. Even at its best they had a tempestuous partwas inevitable.

were down, I was rowing with my career and I wanted to take charge of myself. There were too many conflicts, too often. We didn't sit down and talk about it but we both knew the split was coming."

There were other factors, too. At Stockport the emphasis "The work I did at Stockport was on 25m work whereas . butterfly) and two silvers (200

and my parents in Manchester, it's a 50m pool, a hard-working programme like I'm used to at Stockport, it seemed Ideal."

Hickman has moved to Bramley and it is hard to imagine a richer result because in the past year he has broken two world records, won three Enropean titles and would have added to his Commonwealth Games haul of a gold (200m

meeting several potential men-

tors, he chose Terry Denison at.

"He's a fantastic coach,"

Adrian Moorhouse to the last

the City of Leeds.

trate on long course and, after he had not been disqualified controversially for a false start in the 100m butterfly. The line on the graph, it can safely be said, is heading in the

and 400 individual medleys) if

Hickman said. "He coached right direction again. "It's worked well," he said. "What I have achieved gives me swimming gold medal we had great confidence. To have a and he's very well respected. world record, to have swum Leeds is pretty close to home faster than anyone else, proves you have the skill, so let's go and do it now."

Now means Hong Kong, but Sydney is not too far away - and how many other Britons will be going to the Olympics as a strong medal prospect? Hickman will, and the next

four days will help tell him and others whether gold will be the metal. The hranding of minds

Virenque faces doping charge

BY KIERAN DALY

RICHARD VIRENQUE, the fourtime King of the Mountains in the Tour de France, has been charged by a magistrate with breaking France's anti-doping

Patrick Kell, the magistrate in charge of the inquiry launched after the Festina team masseur Willy Voet was found with a boot load of drugs en route to the start of last year's Tour de France, informed Virenque by letter that he was being charged.

The 28-year-old lead cyclist in the Festina team last season is accused with knowingly using and administering doping products and complicity to import, hold, transfer, supply and acquire poisonous and prohit ited substances. Virenque, who now rides for the Italian Polti team, has persistently denied ever taking banned substances. declaring that official tests that appeared to contradict him were false. Voet whn was later dis

missed by Festina, claimed Virenque took up to 100 injections of the banned drug EPO every year. He accused both Virenque and team-mate Pascal Herve, who has also denied any drug-taking, of being liars and being the biggest consumers of doping products. EPO boosts the oxygen content in the blood and thus can boost endurance.

The investigators' report, compiled following blood tests. urine and hair tests, stated that "The riders took EPO" exogenously, meaning the hormone was given to them externally."

Doubts still remain as to whether all the riders were fully aware of what they were

The four Spanish teams who staged a walk-out during last year's Tour de France -Banesto, ONCE, Vitalicio and Kelme – have returned to France this week for the Criterium International race.

It is the first time ONCE and Banesto have raced in France since the Tour de France last year, when police raided team hotels and an ONCE doctor was placed under investigation on doping charges.

England call up Kear as coach

JOHN KEAR, the Sheffield Eagles coach, is to take charge of England for two games against France this autumn.

.Kear, ironically a former French national coach as well as an assistant with Great Britain, will steer the English side while the full Test team is in Australasia under Andy Goodway. The home nations are to compete separately in the World Cup in 2000 and England's games against France are seen as a crucial part of the preparation for the tournament.

David Howes and Damien. McGrath, both of Leeds, are to he manager and assistant coach respectively. Kear, whn guided Sheffield to the Challenge Cup last year, has already described himself as "flattered" to be on Leeds' short-list to replace Graham Murray as coach at the end of this season.

Ellery Hanley has introduced an alcohol ban in his St Helens players as they prepare for their Easter matches. The Saints coach, himself a teetotaller. has insisted the players stay dry until after the match at Londan on 9 April. They were already restricted

to only drinking immediately after matches, but the new rule is symptomatic of the tight

MARK PEARN, Reading's 22-

year-nld striker, celebrated his

50th appearance for England

with two goals in their 6-2 vic-

tory against South Africa in

After two draws against Argentina which promised more

than they achieved, England

were off to a good start against

South Africa, quickly putting be-

hind them the thoughts of their

two defeats in Pretoria last

year when the teams last met.

Russel Garcia opened the scor-

ing in the fourth minute with a

flick at their first penalty corner.

taking a deflection past the

With George Clover's shot

Buenos Aires yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

discipline with which Hanley intends to run his ship, although he stressed that there had been no drink problem since his arrival this winter.

"We have a very demanding Easter programme of three games in eight days and I believe that alcohol impairs your judgement," he said Saints' next game is on Good

Friday at Wigan, whose coach, John Monie, has followed his usual policy of naming his team early. Dwayne West, the son of the former Wigan coach, Graeme, is in line to make his debut from the bench. Wigan have had several in-

quiries from potential sponsors and ground advertisers in the 24 hours since the announcement that Super League is to be shown on terrestrial TV for the first time, in a half-hnur weekly programme on BBC2 which starts in May.

Salford have become the first rugby league club to win the Investors in People award. The government-backed scheme measures the performance of companies in staff training and development

HOCKEY

England built up a useful 3-0 in-

open play following good work

by Danny Hall and a corner

conversion by Giles extended

from Surbiton players - Gregg

Clark and Greg Nicol - who scored at one of the four penalty

corners they were awarded, but

despite this comeback in the

closing minutes it was Pearn,

with his second just two minutes

South Africa's two goals came

England's lead to 5-0.

A rare Calum Giles goal in

BY BILL COLWILL

terval lead.

Pearn strikes twice

goalkeeper and Pearn's first from time, who confirmed Eng-

goal from a reverse stick shot, land's supremacy.

CATTERICK

HYPERION

2.20 Guest Of Honour 2.50 San Michel 3.20 Once More For Luck 3.55 Jorrocks 4.25 Gunner Sam 5.00 Romero GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

STALLS: hiside.
ORAW ADVANTAGE: High best over 5f on soft ground.

■ Left-hand course, undusting and sharp.
■ Course is NW of town on A6136. Defington station 14m – buses to course, ADMISSION: Club £12; Buttersalts £8; Course £250 (under 16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved £2, rest free. ■ LEADING TRAINERS: J Berry 27-148 (582%), B Hills 18-46 (483%). M Johnston 13-73 (667%). GAS%), M W Easterby 14-123 (11/%) M Johnston 13-78 (16/%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: K Darley 25-130 (182%), J Fortune 17-17 (14/%), J Carroll 17-126 (13/%).

EADONG JOCKEYS: K Darley 25-130 (182%), J Fortune 17-17 (14/%), J Carroll 17-126 (13/%).

EANOUPTIES: 71-427 (40%).

BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Detroit City (visored, 250), Ryefield

2.20 SPRINGTIME CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 5f

FORM VERDICT

A tricky race for punters, with little solid turf form to go on and most of it shown over five months ago, it would be no surprise if GUEST OF HONOUR proves a cut above this motivey bunch, but that view is only based on the speed she showd for 4 if n a 6f Newmarket meiden, and the fact that Berry Hills has a 35% strike rate at Cattenck. Off Hire and Cattle Seal may prove the pick of the more exposed brig

2.50 FORCETT SELLING STAKES (CLASS G)

650304 PRINCIPAL BOY (30) (D) Mas J Craze 8 0 6 ... S Webster 13
00006 CUSZ MASTER (137) E Wyms 4 0 6 M Roberts 8
0540-0 RYEFIELD STAR (S3) D McCain 4 9 6 L Chemock 7 8 43400/ ABSOLUTELY ABSTONE (502) W Brebourne 5 6 1 ...

— 18 declared — 9.5 Cardiebury, 7-1 Man Of The Hight, 0-1 Sycamore Lodge, Textored Arms, 10-1 Guiz Manter; 12-1 San Michel, 14-4 Babraren, 18-1 others

FORM VERDICT

The Woodcock is arguably the most interesting runner here, judged on his Nottingham win, but he is probably not one to rely on. ALAMEIN is preferred, while Scatthebury should go well and Tahcred Arms can prove the pick of the 3yos.

3.20 WHORLTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,500 added 1m 5f 175yds 14374- ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (J13) (C) Mrs M Reveley 6 to 0.

9 declared - 9 dec

much can happen in the close-season break, none of he agint-ty raced rivals showed anything like enough last season to ment close consideration. Basically, if Gunner Sam runs to his juvenile torm, he will be hard to beat. 5.00 YARM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 4f

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True hundicap weight: Alightglade 7st 7th.
BETTING: 3-1 Romero, 4-1 Fly Like A Bled, 5-1 Rum Pointer, 11-2 Lost
Spirit, 7-1 Stanley Wighteld, 8-1 Tunnel Bridge, The Last Word, 10-1 oth-

FORM VERDICT

The Last Word and proven stayer Lost Spirit are well weight-ed on their AW form and are much respected, pertocularly the last-named. Preference, though, is for ROMERO, who is able to race off the same mark as for last week's Doncaster second in a better-contested race than this. He is the one to best on that improved form.

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION

2.00 First Blood 2.30 Ivory's Joy 3.00 Tiger Talk 3.30 Ajig Dancer 4.05 Diplomat 4.40 Lennox 5.15 Plat

LETITION 3.73 FIRM
GOING: Soft
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High best 5f, 6f & im 2f.
Right-hand, undulating bourse,
Course is 6m W of fown off A20, Westenhanger station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Cub & Teathersals 210; Picnic Park 54 per car plus 54 per occupant. Under-life free. CAR PARK: Free.
FYE-YEAR STATISTICS
LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 15-124 (121%), J Dunlop 12-47 (255%), W Molr 9-46 (197%), G L Moore 9-82 (11%).
LEADING JOCKEYS: Dane O'Nell 13-125 (152%), T Quinn 18-129 (147%), S Sanders 17-140 (121%), Paul Eddery 18-94 (17%).
FAVOURITES: 157-474 (331%),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Going Places (visored, 230).

2.00 HEADCORN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) \$2,750 added 2YO 57

A Eridery (S) 6
S Senders 7
Disweeney 3
Dean McKeoney 4 VICTORIET A T Murphy 8 8 - 9 george -BETTING: 11-4 Cowboys And Angels, 7-2 First Blood, Master Fay, 8-1 Mentios. Step Up, Commodistri, 14-1 Victoriat, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Bill Turner has quickly made an impact with his juveriles the season, and the speedily-bred COWBOYS AND ANGELS appeals as another likely to make his presence felt. Conversely, likely Chemnorth youngstare here yet to shine, and it seems significant that Richard Cunn – associated with most of the stablets runners this term – partners First Blood for Terry Mills.

2.30 ROCHESTER HANDICAP (CLASS E)

BETTING: 2-1 Ica Age, 4-1 Friendly Brave, 9-2 Wory's Joy, 7-1 Brutel Por-lasy, 8-1 Facile Tigre, Landson Lane, 14-1 Mallou Man, 18-1 others FORM VERDICT

Of those proven in the conditions, FACILE TIGHE makes most appeal, though an extra furlong would be ideal. Going Places has possibilities each-way. Horses racing on the far side when the ground is soft have a significant advantage, and Landj-can Lane is the pick of those drawn on that wing.

3.00 ALDINGTON MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £2,750 added 3YO 71

- 16 declared -SETTING: 2-1 Gerebeschi, 7-2 Tiger Tatk, 9-2 Khibrain, 10-1 Embettle, First Fantasy, 14-1 Enliade, 18-1 Mr Stylish, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT

A three-way aftar on form between BARABASCHI, Tiger Talk, and Kritbrah. The last-named tailed to confirm debut promise on her second start, and the issue could rest between the caiss. Barry Hills made his usual quick start to the turf season at Doncaster, and Tiger Talk could find this 71 loses, but marginal preference is for the well-galloped Berabeschi.

3.30 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS E)

54200- COUPLED (203) S.C.Wil

tical Warning, Young Mazaad, Mark Time, 10-1 others FORM VERDICT

With two front-runners drawn nearby, AFg Dester should have the race set up for her and site will he a warm order to fol-tow up her weekend success. But her overall record suggests caution, and MARK TIME, whose stable has been in good form over jumps, is suggested as the value each-way opbon. 4.05 SHORNECLIFFE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) £2,750 3YO 61

61.3 Pollers (3) 3

SETTING: 8-4 Similarst Boy, 2-1 Objornat, 7-2 Bread Winner, 5-1 Gall, 20-1 West Street Bloes FORM VERDICT

This represents a drop in class for ELMHURST BCY, who showed enough lest autumn to suggest that he can hold his own at this level. There are question-marks against both Bread Winner and Diplomat. 4.40 KINGSNORTH HANDICAP (CLASS E)

Cuestro 7st Stb. Crach Call Lady 7st 2fb.

SETTING: 5-2 Lennox, 7-2 Elie Cuestro, 5-1 Crach Call Lady, 8-1 Gold Honor, 7-1 Lucky Nemo, 10-1 Zole, 29-1 Lady Coldunell, Superbob FORM VERDICT Little turf form to go on in a weak race, it may pay to give LENNOX another chance to fulfil initial juventle printiles, but

he is far from a confident choics. 5.15 ALKHAM HANDICAP (CLASS E) £3,500 added 3YO 1m 1f 149yds

06-445 SWAMPY (46) N Calleghan 9 7 08-445 SWAMPY (40) N Calleghon 9 7 R Financh 8
05- L S LOWRY (USA) (149) (8F) P Cole 9 7 C Rutler 3
000- PIAF (200) B Hills 0 M Hills 10
060- SECRET DBJL (149) E Durlop 8 7 PR Edday 12
350- SUPPR DOLLAR MS 5 C WEET D S

BETTING: 7-2 L.S Lowry, 4-1 Secret Dell, T-1 Super Doller, Enth's Chill Wind, 8-1 Pief, 18-1 Weish Assembly, Compton Amica, Brave Vision, Catch Bell, 18-1 others.

FORM VERDICT

L.S. Lowny has solid-looking proderitials but that will proba-bly be reflected in his price, so at much larger odds WELSH ASSEMBLY is a speculative choice. The booking of a capable apprentice is quite a positive sign for today and he would be fairly weighted if he did come back to his post.

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S 518 COO 3m 110 yes From S TANK TO THE PARTY OF THE PARTY A Lamanta marining and the same of the sam A Service with the first a service of the service o

Name of Street Street Wholes Service Brown and Servi The part of the pa The second of th

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And finish that the fill the same of the s The same of the sa The factor of th

· 4 条列 中央 李宗 (1974)

in white

Virenque la faces

Hawke ready to appreciate high life

THE GREAT truism about National Hunt race riding is that it can bring acute delight and grief in adjacent packages. One minute a jockey can be at the peak of his profession, the next he may plummet as if the lift cable has been severed. It is not a thenomenon you have to ex-plan to Nigel Hawke.

It was in 1991 that the young rider used up all his credit. Seagram won the Ritz Club Chase at the Cheltenham Festival and then caught Garrison Savannah on the merciless Aintree runin to prevent Jenny Pitman's horse completing a Gold Cup-Grand National double. The journeyman had reached the ultimate destination.

Two years later, however, Hawke almost reached the terminus that waits for us all. Back in the less celebrated forum of Newton Abbot, Hawke was brought down at the first flight of a worthless selling hurdle. His mount that day was called Beam Me Up Scotty and his rider was indeed almost transported to a different land.
The head injuries Hawke received immediately divorced him from the part of the sport he had known. It propelled him into the employment of training and, a week on Saturday, Hawke, at 33, will send Kendal Cavalier over the most de-

By RICHARD EDMONDSON

manding test horses in Britain are allowed to undertake If the fates allow Hawke an-

could at least ensure he enjoys their blessing a little more this time around. "It just all happeried so quickly on Seagram that I couldn't really appreciate it," he says. "You never catch up with yourself I wouldn't mind trying it again.

"I just happened to be on the the right horse on the right day. which doesn't happen all the time when you're a jockey. I found that out later.

"At Newton Abbot I got a blood clot on the inside of my brain and they wouldn't let me drive a car for four years. That was the wrong place at the wrong time.

"I spent a lot of time in hospital and it's frightening when you see the people in there around you. You realise how lucky you've been.

"It was different from Declan Murphy's problem, because he had his blood clot on the outside of the brain where you could operate on it. With me, they just didn't know what to do. Hopefully it's dispersed now, but there are no certainties. I get tired, but you get tired doing this job anyway."

tired when talking about Kendal Cavalier, his first winner of the season when he collected the Welsh National just other day in the sunshine they 10 days after being a Christmas present when relocated from

Rod Millman's yard. The grey is not particularly well named as he is neither supercilious nor flashy. He is the Pheidiopides of the horse kingdom who only starts running when the tread is starting to disappear. "He's not a straightforward horse," Hawke says.

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Elle Questro (Folkestone 4.40) **NB:** Gunner Sam (Catterick 4,25)

"He's got his way of doing things. You've got to keep him a little bit fresh.

"The first half mile in the National will tell us everything. If things don't go right for him early on in a race he goes nowhere. He loses interest. It just all depends on whether he takes to it." It is the thought of this horse that helps his confederates through the black mornings at Holemoor House Stables near Chard in Somerset. You do not get out on the

morale up," Hawke says. "Hav-

"We've been quiet since Christmas because we've had a problem. The horses have been throwing the odd cough. But they're coming right again. week that went well and he seems very well and his blood is right again. "He's the forgotten horse of

the race. If the ground came right - and that means the softer the better - I seriously think he's the one to beat."

Kendal Cavalier will jump the Aintree-style fences on the Lambourn trial grounds this morning, an addition to the recent racecourse work be completed with a fellow Liverpool consideration, Coome Hill.

It was announced yesterday that the gelding trained on the Cornish Riviera will be ridden in the big one by Steve Wynne following the retirement of his usual partner, Jamie Osborne. It will be a first National ride for the 26-year-old. A further solid appointment

was made yesterday when Norman Williamson confirmed he would ride General Wolfe for the window ledge when there is a Teeton Mill connections of

Hawke does not, though, get Grand National horse in the Venetia Williams and The Winyard. "He's kept everyone's ning Line. The Irishman, who has just spent several days ing a horse like that makes us all forget about the hard work and keep going.

recharging at the Dubai World Cup meeting, had also been linked with Betty's Boy and Nahthen Lad.

Tony Dobbin, successful in the National two years ago on Lord Gyllene, put his mount this year, Avro Anson, through We had one or two run last a schooling session yesterday and was pleased with the examination results. "He was having a bit of a look round being out there on his own, but he jumped the last three brilliantly. He's in good form and we're hoping for good ground."
The connection between

Rough Quest, the 1996 National winner, and this year's contest grew increasingly slim following yesterday's bulletin which suggested the old man was more likely to run in the Foxhunters' Chase at the meeting. "I do feel the horse is in tremendous shape at the moment but with not being able to run on Saturday (because of Newbury's unsuitable firm ground) we've sort of run out of time." Terry Casey the trainer. said. "At the moment we're not thinking about the National. He will probably be left in at the five-day stage but I would have to say that it's extremely unlikely that he'll run."



ASCOT

HYPERION

2.05 Native Recruit 4.15 Another Night 2.40 Strong Paladin (nb) 4.50 Shaarid 3.10 Country Beau 5.25 The Puffin Man 3.40 RED GUARD (nap)

GOING: Good to Firm,

4.0

Simplest The !

Mark a

III Course is near junction of A329 and A330. Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 5). Railway station (service from London, Waterboo) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Mombers 115 (17-25 year-olds hell-price); Grandstand & Paddock 110; Silver Ring 25. CAR PARK: Nos 1, 2 & 3 15, remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ELEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 21-98 (219%), M Pipe 15-96 (174%), K Bailey 15-56 (22.4%), J Gifford 13-103 (12.5%), N Twiston-Davies 12-88 (12.5%).

TS-56 (22.4%), J. Gifford TS-103 (12.5%), N. Twistion-Davise 12-88 (18.6%), N. IMILEADING JOCKEYS; A. P. McCoy 28-107 (26.2%), R. Ounwoody 21-124 (18.9%), N. Williamson 18-85 (21.2%), M. A. Fitzgerald 18-145 (12.4%), A. Magnire 17-85 (20%), IMILONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Chevaller Bayard (2.40) and Filis De Cresson (2.10) BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Canister Castle (450).

2.05 ROYAL ASCOT CRICKET CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £3,648 118 IN QUESTION (18) (The Winning Line) Miss V Williams 5 11 12...

6:301 MOONSTINE BAY (19) (Mrs Timothy Phinglor) J Gifford 5 11 2. PHild -3154 NATIVE RECRUIT (34) (Jeny Whight) D Nictobor 6 11 12. If Johnson 092 COPPER CONN (25) (W V M W & Mrs. ES Robris) N Hendeston 5 11 7. M A Respendi

20-1 Beltawio, 25-1 Brownings Boy, Catchment, 33-1 Philosophic 1998: Just Np S 11 5 J A McCorthy 20-1 (Mrs L Richards) 20 ran

FORM GUIDE

12 Only 6th to Regency Rake in hot hicad at Sandown but wy have been the reason. Very easy winner at Ludiaw on good ground before. Up metring Bay: Folkestone winner in November and first run since when beating

Alta at Sandown 19 days ago. Rais sed in trip and on a much fas Native Recruit: Dual Ludlow winner and then stiff task against Berton at Sendown. Native Recruit: Dual Ludlow where and then stiff task against Berton at Sendown. Tailed off last time behind Lord Noelle at Wincarton. Stays well and has his ground Copper Cohe; All runs in soft ground, beating Oragon Lord at Windoor before 2-length 2nd to the progressive Heart at Newbury. Up in distance and likely to go well on ground Asharen: Winner of two points but best wachted on debut in a pacey race Belleurle: Bumper winner last season but fittle chance on showings this term, last time out finishing a detent 6th to Basman at Wincarton (2m) Brownings Boy: Has struggled in soft ground all season. Still big surprise if he wins structure to the last struggled in soft ground all season. Still big surprise if he wins

Strownings Boy: Has struggled if sort ground as establishing Suprise in re-wise after letest pulled up effort behind Percy Parkeeper at Kempton (2m5f)
Catchment: Hurdles newcomer and modest on the AM, finishing 7th to Quezon City at Southwelt (2m) after 3-length 2nd to Bigwig at Lingfield
Philosophile: Winner on the Fiel and has Adrian Maguire booked for jumping debut.
Only 8th to Bigwig at Lingfield on latest start. Surprise If he collects

VERDICT: Many will give in Question another chance on this better ground afthe lapse or a highly competitive handicap in the soft at Sandown, He is tried over a longer try, but one to beet him getting 5tb is the progressive COPPER COIN, who could lake off now that he gets fast ground. He made hard work of whiching at Whitesop but there was plenty to like about his latest showing against the wall weighted hierat he. Numbers handless hard the country of the country of the sand hard work of whiching the sand hard work of which weighted hierat he. Numbers handless hard sometimes the sand her sand he was the sand her sand he

	2	.40	FAIRVIEW NEW HOMES NOVICE CHASE (B) £16,000 3m 110yds Pen. Val. £11,568	BBC
Ì	2		CARDIAC ARREST (64) (Dayd Zidtmen) Mes H Kright 6 11 8	
١	3		CHEVALUER RAYARD (26) (James R Adams) J Adam 8 11 8	
١	3		CLAYMORE LAD (18) (Marborough Recing Perincurity) J King 8 11 8	90
l	4	322-42	FAMIFOND (FR) (89) (The Propellus Partingship) K Basely 6 Ti 6	
Ì	5		FARFADET V (FR) (14) (C M . B J & R F Batterham) M Pipe 8 TI S	9
Ì	6		IMAD (USA) (19) (Alen Brackley) K Cornerford 9 Tl 6	
	7		MR EDGAR (34) (Feb. Rosenstiels Widow 0 Son) J Grioni 8 Ti 6	
ı	8		ROYAL RAVEN (12) (C) (A D Weler) J Gifford 8 11 8	
١	9		SEE ENOUGH (18) (D) (JAG Meaden) R Buckler 11 11 6	
	10		STRONG PALADRI (33) (Mrs Angela Brotis) T Casty 8 11 8	
	ħ		STRONG VISION (29) (D) (8F) (I F W Buchen) K Beary 8 TI 6	
	12		SWEET LORD (33) (1 8 Networking Schutters Lidt) J Ott 6 11 8	
1	13	F118-4	UP THE COUNTRY (12) (U) (Suffered United) H Curts 7 11 8	

royal blue and yellow (quartered), red sheres, yellow cap — 13 declared — DETING: 4-1 Strong Peladic, 5-1 Strong Vision, Particlet V, 6-1 Feminol, 8-1 lead, See Enough, 90-1 like Edger, 12-1 Cardiac Arrest, Sweet Lord, 14-1 Chereller Bayard, 16-1 others

1909 Personan 7 11 8 N Wilsemson 5-1 co

FORM GUIDE FORM GUIDE

Cirdiac Arrest: Gurgled at Leicester on latest start when stiff task against Malcouri.

Decent aactier showing when 2nd to Tradio at Stratford. Fester ground may help Decent aactier showing when 2nd to Tradio at Stratford. Fester ground may help Decent aactier that this longer tap after thinds to Boyzontoows at Catterick Chewatter Bayyard: Wunts this longer tap after thinds to Boyzontoows at Catterick and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester. Traveling companion of Fix De Cresson (runs \$30) and Dragons Bay at Doncester.

th 3rd to Country Store last time. Hard to fainty Familionic Ex-French trained and 9-length 2nd to Familion: Ex-Prench trained and 9-length 2nd to Linden's Lotto at Chefenham on New Year's day Yards horses run well fresh but stablemate Strong Vision preferred New Year's day Yards horses run well fresh but stablemate Strong Vision preferred Familion of the Strong Vision preferred New Year's day Yards horses run well fresh but stablemate Strong Vision preferred familion of the Strong Vision of the Strong Inted: Foliassions hurdros wither before 6-length 2nd to Salmon Breaze over tences

lands Foliassione hurdins wither before 6-length 2nd to Salmon Breaze over fences there. Reversed to hurdins test time (and to Equity's Desting). Runs only if rain there, Reversed to hurdins test ground so likely to go well after feir showing at life Edger: Hurdins wither on fast ground so likely to go well after feir showing at Foliassione and 18-length 2nd to Tiraldo at Hurdingdon. Up in trip today Royal Rawan: Improved run to finish close up 3rd to Montme at Foliassione (2m2) have strifer task today and Mr Edgar rains the stable's main fency but strifer task today and Mr Edgar rains the stable's main fency see Enought. Creditable recent efforts at Chepatow against Belly Lira (beatan head) see Enought. Creditable recent efforts at Chepatow against Belly Lira (beatan head) see Enought. Oreditable recent efforts at Chepatow against Belly Lira (beatan head) see Enought. Placed in strong reads behind kurtaer at Sandown yesterday Kempton. Prefers this taster ground and stable had wither at Sandown yesterday Kempton. Prefers this taster ground and stable had wither at Sandown yesterday Kempton. Prefers this taster ground at Laineater last time when head-2nd to Romancer. Sure to go well on faster ground at Laineater last time when head-2nd to Romancer. Sure to go well on faster ground at Laineater last time when head-2nd to Romancer. Sure to go well on faster ground at Laineater last time when head-2nd to Romancer. The Country: Warring pointer and better for race when 4th to Kingte Banker at Kemp
The Country: Warring pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
The Country: Warring pointer and better for race when 4th to Montroe at Folia
tions 12 days ago (17 lengths behind Royal Raven)

VERDICT: Kim Bailey won this race last year and Strong Vision looks batter than The state of the s Cosson (funs in 310) and could spring a surprise with the longer trip sure to suit.

3.10 DAILY TELEGRAPH NOVICE H'CAP CHASE BBC2 (C) 220,000 2m 3f 110yds Pen. Val. 213,810 3-THF KURAKKA (47) (CD) (Mrs M C Sweetney) J Gifford 6 11 13 HUST COUNTRY BEAU (34) (0) (Ms J. J. Peppieti) J. King 7 tt 1..... 1-201 LAREDO (19, ID) (Seding Thorughteeds Lid) P Nichols 6 10 S...... white, dark green chevron and armiets, check cap SURSGN CORDA (25) (D) (14 Ward-Thomas) H Daly 6 10 5 _____ White, red eleves, check cap FILS DE CRESSON (18) (larnes R Adems) J Adem 9 To 6. red, brown alseves, red armists, white cap BETTING: 11-4 File De Cresson, 100-30 Laredo, 7-2 Kinaldia, Sopreme Chern, 7-1 Country Beac

1998: Hoh Wernfor 7 11 10 G Bradley 10-1 (C Brooks) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

FOHM GUIDE:

Kurakka: Big, strapping chaser who impressed at Ascot and Sandown before falling at Newbury in race won by Melcount. Needs to cope with much feater ground Country Beau: Smart cheser and winner last time at week race at Wincanton. Allowed 12b for 46-length defeat by Kurakka at Sandown, Greeky suited by feat ground Supreme Charms: Hes won here 4 times over hurdes. Chase wins at Ludlow (beat Sursum Cords 5 lengths in Jenuary) and creditable 3rd to Moor Lane at Doncester Landox; in the form on return since December, winning easily at Wincanton at Teurston. Hes won on good ground so leading chance off a lenient Iricap mark.

Surguer Cords: Diseasonining and won only a week creat Hurbingdon lied than. Surraum Cords: Disappointing and won only a week race at Huntingdon lest time. First ground a worry and seems held by Supreme Charm on Ludlow form File De Creegor; Two-mile winner at Catterick and Ayr, the latest easily from Bengebun-

ny on soft. Disappointed on faster ground at Hereford before VERDICT: Three wins on good ground and a bumper success on test suggests this surface will not unduly trouble LAREDO, who is on a lenient mark after return ing to action with two wins in a lowly league, Kuraida could be stretched with the weight on this fast surface and, while Country Beau's form is a bit suspect, he is

sure to go close with the ground very much in his terrour, Suprettie Cherus will like the surface and lines up fresher than most.

	-	بميضم	POOTER VIDUCY DATICHT ACCOCIATION F	
	13	.40	BRITISH KIDNEY PATIENT ASSOCIATION FOR HURDLE (B) E8,500 2m 110yds 26,153	BC2
	1	PPP-20	THE FRENCH FURZE (13) (D) Lim Emily R Procock 5 11 10	N Fathy (7)
•	2	11265	5 TYHOLEAN DREAM (35) (0) (P Health) M Tompkins 5 til 8	_A Magula
	8	3-1363	3 SIMONS CASTLE (93) (0) (Mrs Berbern Merchent) R O'Sulhen 6 ti 6	A Fitzgerald
	4	030143	KINNESCASH (25) (D) (D R James) P Bowen 6 11 6	Donwoody
	5	-04100	VENT D'AOUT (13) (D) (Ellin Racing Club) M Pipe 5 11 2	A P McCoy
	6		PAPLIA (43) (D) (BF) (Richert Hischins) Belding 5 11 1 But thise and ownge diamonds, but this shows, light blue cap, ownge ster	
	7		CLASSIC EAGLE (95) (D) (Classic Bloodslock Pic) Mrs D Haire 6 11 6 purple, while sesh and star on cap	
	6	51-425	S TRUANCY (20) (D) (J E Funnell) 6 Woodman 6 10 7	Williamson
	8	-06214	RED GUARD (41) (D) (LA Hooper) J Gifford 5 10 7	P Hide
	10		SHADIANN (19) (Michael Blackburn & John Brown) P Murphy 5 10 6	
	Ħ	031145	SHOOFK (42) (D) (BF) (Seen Devine) S Dow 6 10 6	C Llowellyn
	2	210330	NORDANSK (8) (D) (T Smith) M Madgwick to to 8	okistelo (3)
	13	485241	DANCENG PADDY (23) (CD) (Bycherice Pading) K Curringhem-Brown 11 to 1 emirald green, black hollow box	_S Keby (5)
	. 14		! TISSUE OF LIES (USA) (18) (D) (The No Hause Partnershp) J Alahurat 8 mauve, royal biue hoops, disbolo on sleeves, emerald green cap.	
	15	4 174 11	BABA AU SUNDA (7) (0) (NFC Pertnership) I Williams 7 to 0 (4ar)	R Johnson
	Mad		hale 10ct Tree hardings underly Date Au Divers Oct 12th	

– 15 declared – Minimum weight: 10st. True handicip weight: Bohn Au Ruum Sqt 12th. BETTING: 5-1 Bebs Au Rhum, 7-1 Klonsecsek, Tyrolean Droom, Rad Guerd, 10-1 Vent D'Acot, Clas-ele Engle, Stroons Castle, Tissue Of Lias, 14-1 Pepus, Shedisme, Dancing Paddy, 16-1 others 1998: Monnate Forte 8 10 10 8 Powel 5-1 law (J Adam) 11 ran

FORM GUIDE The French Fuzze: Ex-Martin trained and very stiff task at weights even with the The French Furse: Ex-Nertin trained and very stiff teach at weights even with the ground to his Bring (Firth in Courty Hurdle lest time). Tyroleen Dream: Chepstow and Wetherby winner in October (6th higher). Good showing under 12st at Doncaster lest time when 5th to Gingar Fox. Stable out of form Streams Castle: All wins in soft ground. 2b lower than when 8th to Poler Prospect in William Hill Hurdle at Sandown in December.

Kinnescastic Hardy sort who acts on all ground. Give 2th and 4-length beating to

Causter (winner since) at Aintree and just 11b higher, Stiff task against Ricardo and Perfect Venue at Newbury last time Vent D'Aout: Won small race under 12st at Taunton and stiff tasks aince at Newbury

and County Hurdle (deimer ridden and 19th). All who on soft ground Papue: Only 7th to Fatehalichair at Sedgefeld after other deappointing runs. Paster ground to suit but not one to trust ground to suit but not one or trust.

Classic Engine: Palsonham winner on fast ground last season. Tried blinkered (left off today) last time when creditable 4th to Ginger Fox at Doncaster Trusney: Kempton and Warwick winner on fastish ground and back on more suitable surface after letake creditable 5th to Kinds Cross at Wincardon. Fine chance Red Gazard: Raised 10b for Sandown win from Premier Generation on good ground.

Red Gazerd: Relead 10b for Seridown win from Premier Generation on good ground. Well beaten in a novice there next time by Ashley Park.
Sheditens: All times wins gained over 2m51 at Hereland, the latest by 8 lengths from Iremendisto. Likely to find trip and ground against him.
Shootic Beaten long way lest time when 5th to Hot in Seucy at Follestone (two wins there previously). Stiff task on this ground after all wins on heavy Nordensic: Latest four wins notched in the mud so unlikely to be good enough in such a tough rece (8th of 11 to Mechiavell at Fontwell last time).
Dancing Paddy: Very well handicapped and beng in form after win from Tissue Of Lies at Fontwell (same terms). Good chance with competent 5th claimer aboard.
Tissue Of Lies Modest 2nd to Suranom at Ptumpton after 2-length 2nd to Dancing Paddy: Very well hand to barranom at Ptumpton after 2-length 2nd to Dancing Paddy. We have weighted hear but faster cround will suit.

Paddy at Fortwell. Same weights here but tester ground will suit
Babs Au Fitum: Decent Fist handcapper and reliated tester surface to win twice
at Ludlow (sees) by 1 length from Duello). Stronger race today but fine chance VERDICT: The ground has come right for TRUANCY, the mount of Norman VERTERIA II: Integroung riss come right for THUANCY, the Mount of Norman Williamson and with a stone less on his back after the lettest run on unsuitable going at Wincerton. A big danger emerges in Babe Au Rhum with the ground also smack in his favour, while Denoing Paddy returned to form at Fortiwell and he remains very well hendicapped. Vers 17 Assat clid little in the County Hurdle but this is because the maintenance of the property of the second county of the second county.

4.15 GREAT ORMOND ST HOSPITAL CHILDRENS CHARITY HANDICAP HURDLE (C) £7,000 added 3m £5,198

21-33 GRIERO CRUSADER (11) (7) (Als R Kay O May Near) May Visual M 22944 CAPTAN JACK (1732 (D) COND Smith M Pipe 6 10 7 AP McCoy B 15344 WONTCOSTOLOTBUT (7) (Municustale) Partnership) M Wilerson 5 10 5 W Marston Optics Ecultiv's DARLING (17) (Ms. V Crossop D Officer 7 10 1 M Batterbor (6 5 84/202 HOMEY MOUNT (111) (D) (Paul Green) R Alner 6 10 0 Spinish Spinish (17) (R) (Paul Green) R Alner 6 10 0 Spinish Spinish Spinish (17) (R) (Paul Green) R Alner 6 10 0 Spinish Spi

roop all Mars, present var car. Bellt Thife: 5-1 Equility's Derling, 5-1 Green Cruseder, 7-1 Bellenek, 8-1 Se bly Mot, Honey Mount, Belltrol, 10-1 Captain Jack, Wonfoostalothat, Another Night, Queen's Ride, 12-1 others 1888: Suprame Charm 6 10 13 N Williamson 9-2 fav (K Balley) 17 ran

Green Crusader: Better for two comeback runs after a rest. Fine 3rd to Wisley Won-Green Cruseous: Deter for two continues in the authorized auries of development and development of development

Afartos: Ex-Irish mudiover set a stiff teak at Newbury (fell 6th) in Flying Gunner's race. Raiss on outsider on this fast surface. Bright Flamas: Winning stayer in the mud last season. Pulled up at Newton Abbot (first run for two months) a fortnight ago. May lack the pace on this ground Galatason! Jane: Winning novice chaser and also successful in 3-mile hunde at Chepsians last May. Lower fast ground and not highly tried on belated resppearace. Be May Mot: Beaton Just under 3 lengths by Equity's Durling at Folkestone last time. Alowed foll but feater ground a worry. Far Dawn: Not as good as when notching two wins in 1996. Stayed on in 6th to Equity's Derling at Sandown sist time. Better chance on this faster surface. Bahanak: Won 3-runner affair at Cartinal and had Green Crusader in 3rd when beaten under a length by Wieley Wonder at Uttowater test time. Best form on softer ground Captain Jack: Kempton novice winner and lightly raced over jumps since. 20-length 4th of 8 to Tevestral at Loliceater in early Docember and has been waiting for ground.

Capitain Jacob Rempton howes winner and agrany ratios over jumps since. Consigning the office of the Rempton howest and here been waiting for ground Wontcostalotbut: Both wins on soft ground and reluctant to race at Townseier last firms, 3rd to Atavistic at Kempton in Jamisry. Feat ground a problem Equity's Derfingt: Soft ground winner at Follestone and Sendown and creditable 3rd to Peelings at Lingfloid. Fester ground a worry but goes well for claimer rider Another Night: Won at Chepstow in soft ground last season, 3rd to Five Flags at

Another Night: Won at Chepatow in soft ground last season. 3rd to Five Flags at Towcester but well held by Equity's Darling on previous start. Honey Mount: Weighted to reverse Kempton form with Be My Mot and 2nd to hotpot Arctic Chanter at Teuriton in December, Runs fresh today and likes test ground Queen's Rider Lightly-raced mere who stayed the trip (3m2) when a close 2nd to North Tyne at Huntingdon last time. Promise beforehand and a five chance Bellinok Ground has counted against her this season (5th to Molsum at Huntingdon last time), has won three times on fast surface so could surprise of 10st.

VERDICT: The ground is likely to count against many of these but not so GREEN CRUSADER, who can deliver a telling turn of toot, He has shown up well on both starts since returning from a rest and the ground gives him hope of beating these off top weight. Guistaword Jane will also revel on the suriese and site should be till enough after 8 leyoff, while Queen's Ride is open to improvement and has a feath-

4.50 HAT AND PICTURE MAHONIA HUNTER CHASE (CLASS

_		n) 24,000 aqued 2m 3r 110yos remaily value £2,879
	521-PP	MELL O'THE PLAGS (41) Gars JE Mickey) N King 10 12 4
	FP1P-6	FRED RORY (8) (Miss D H McCarthy) Mrs O McCarthy 10 124Mr S Hitchcott (7)
	404-0	SHAARED (USA) (7) (CD) (Peter Olcheld) P Chemings 11 12 4
	/00-0P	ARABIAN BOLD (26) (C) (F L Matthews) F Matthews 11 12 0
	P5UPTP	CANISTER CASTLE (16) LIE Proze) F Natthews 11 12 0
		CONTI D'ESTRUVAL (P10) (D) (Terry E.G. Smith) Mrs S Mulins 9 12 0Mr T Smith (5)
	P-F223	DELIGHT (8) (Count K G-Saurau) Countries G-Saurau 8 12 0Mr A Charles-Jones (3)
		DESERT CALM (7) (A N Fules) D McCoin 10 12 0
		OFFUNESTICK (4) (D) (P W E Henri) Miss H Irving 13 12 0 Miss H Irving (7)
•		FATHER JACK (10) (Mas Tracey Ide) Tide 8 126
		HALHAM TARN (8) (Mos Meriel Tarnell) G Brown 8 12 6Mr J Lock (7)
•		KELTULLA (674) (J Townson) Mrs 9 Smith 8 12 0
ī		MAN MOOD (FR) (21) (D) (Julian Robbins) E Hackbook 8 120Mr G Harmor (5)
í		MER GOLUGHTLY (27) (CD) (Mrs & I Cobden) Mrs J Food 12 12 6
1		STRONG MEDICINE (P10) (D) (Dr DB A SIG) Mrs H Sik 12 12 0

- 15 doctared - BETTING: 7-2 Strong Medicine, 4-1 Mr Gollghthy, 5-1 Shearld, 6-1 Hallium Tarn, 13-2 Delight, 7-1 MR O'The Rage, 10-1 Dromatick, 16-1 others 1966: Busman 9 12 1 Mr D S Janes (7) 11-2 (K Pearce) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Mill O'The Regs: Pulled up both starts this term. Wetherby winner (2m4f) last sea-The regist Pulse by both said and tent we would will be and tent. We will be and return to fast ground in his tayour.

Red Rony: Won maiden humber on good ground at Folkestone last term. Well behind at Fontwell on reappearance when 6th to Verde Lune.

Shearfic Should come on for responsarance 8th to Grintey Gale at Ludlow. Best Mill O'The Rage and Drumstick at Folkestone in May. Like tast ground

Arabian Bold: Smart performer tive years ago but little to recommend him nowa-days spulled up behind Hittonstown Lass at Doncaster last time) Carloller Castle: Hise shown very little (pulled up Stratford 16 days ago) and now tried in bilinkers Contil D'Estruvair Former (ast-ground lover and auccessful over the type of trip. Larkhill

Contil D'Estruvati. Former last-ground lover and aucquestul over the type of trip. Larichill casuality when going well and trip and ground proved too much in the point won by Lie Detector from Strong Medicine next time.

Delight: Craditable pieced rurs in points and then 3rd to Verde Lurs at Fontwell, finishing just, over a length behind Hallram Tam.

Desert Callan; Kept on to finish 5th of 19 to Grimley Gale at Ludiow after 3rd to Gale Tol at Sandown. Every hope and will got the assistance from the saddle Drumstelic At his beat on feat ground and will be fitter for seasonal 3rd to Cracking Idea at Cottenham. Has seen better days but this is his ideal trip.

Pather Jack: Pulled up on reappearance in testing ground. Has test ground pedicates on might fust do better.

Pather Jack: Putied up on reappearance in teating ground. Has test ground peo-gree so might just do batter. Hashern Tam: Every chance in modest race after 2nds to Orchestral Suite at New-bury and Verde Lone at Fontwell (good to firm). Klitulla: Maiden but has some fair form to his name. 5-length 2nd to Colonel in Chief at Wetherby in May 1997 and Blody to figure despite returning from layoff. Man Mood: Teled off at Bangor on reappearance. Lest won Hereford in 1995. Mr Gofighthy: Fast-ground lover and hiv chance on 2nd to Destin D'Estruval at Ban-gor and 3rd to Celtic Abbey at Ludlow. Strong Medicine: Former smart handicapper when ground rode tast. Only 7th to Around The Horn at Sandown and 4-length 2nd to Lie Detector in point last time.

VERDICT: In a trappy race there could be some value with KILTULLA, who is having his first start for atmost two years. He has the form to take the beating and his older rhole have all seen better days. Strong Medicine has always preferred the sort of ground and must hold a fighting chance, along with Halthera Tarm and Mir.

5.25 WILD BOAR STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT (CLASS H) £3,000

.23	added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £2,505
6	BEECHCROFT BAY (134) (W.A. Harrson-Aller) Mis P Dutiled 5 11 6.N Willianington () BEFFENOLF (Mis. J.T Gilford) J Gilford 5 11 6
4	BORING GORING (42) (Goring Hotel) Miss A M Newton-Smith 5 11 6. Mr 8 Stronge (1
	COUNTY FLYER (120) (R Heathman Contractors) J 8 Smith 6 11 6 J. Cummins (CROSSY (David Cross Leiguns Ltd) C Wiecdon 5 11 6
	ICE COOL LAD (John Syres () Arthur Hojes) R Rove 5 11 6
06	MONTYS LAD (82) (Mrs. J Curripley, M Doccey () K Doccey) A Carroll 5 11 8 J Tizzan
	SILVER STREAK (Mrs Timothy Plidington) J Gifford 5 to 6
0	THE PUFFIN MAN (46) (Coin French) N Herstergen 6 11 6 L Victors (
	BARNEY KNOWS (14) (D) (C N Sames) M Pell 4 11 5
	JENNYPERINEY (Nigel Demoster) J Old 6 11 1
234	MACAW-BAY (47) (Gary J. Roberts) A Carrol 5 11 1
	JENSKI (42) (Gerald Galveroni) T Casey 4 to 12 A Betes 0
	ONE NATION (The End Cadogan) Man H Kright 4 10 12

BETTING: 13-6 Barney Knows, 11-2 The Potfin Blan, 10-1 lee Cool Led, Jessypenn 12-1 Boring Goring, 14-1 Berevolf, Silver Street, Necew-Bey, Jesekt, 20-1 others 1998: Ketes Churm 5 10 12 Mr R Visikley (S) 20-1 (R J Price) 22 ren **FORM GUIDE**

Beechcroff Bay: No show behind Gunnerbiong at Newton Abbot in November Berewolf: One of 2 Josh Gifford runners. Newcomer son of Commanche Run Borling Gorling: Stiff teak on debut when 4th of 17 [bin 11 lengths) to hot tevourite Dromdorms at Follosetone in soft ground. May do better on this tester surface County Flyer: Son of Crules Missels and 33-1 when beginn 52 lengths behind Frosty Carryon in strong race at Chepstow Crossy: Gelded newcorner son of Young Man. Stable to be respected lee Cool Lack Glaciel Storm newcorner from a stable that can win these re

Cook under construction and a second process of the second of the second of the market registed: Unplaced behind Beccarat at Doncaster and Sandy Duff at Ludiow. Out of a Strong Gale mare so may improve signify on this tester surface Silver Stranic Gelded son of Roseller and likely to act well on fast ground. May prove

The Putfin Men: Easy to back on debut in Newbury race won by hospot Golden Alhis Petian later as each of court in Newbury part with or operance place. Betten 26 lengths in 8th but sure to improve for experience Barrary Knows: Fine form with Museaburgh 2nd to Mr Lamb, Doncaster win from Baccerat and Chatterham 10th (bin 11 lengths) to Monsignor. Excellent chance Jennitypenneys: Article Lord newcomer mere from a stable to be respected in thase table. Stoutly bred and may need more time. Macam-Bay: Creditable 4th to Begant City at Bangor on 3rd start. May again find some time conf.

some too good Jensid: Son of Patoski and well backed on debut when 6th to Dromdoren at Foliastora. Frietred 13 lengths behind Borng Goring but better expected on this ground One Mation: Newcomer son of Bo My Native dut of a Deep Run mere. Likely to be sharp enough and competent cleimer taking off 5lb

VERDICT: BARNEY KNOWS is out to boost the Cheltenham bumper form after TENTERTY IS ANAMERT AMENTED IS OUT TO DOOST THE CHESCHIST DUMPER FORM SITE finishing a creditable tenth to Moneignor. He beat 16 invalls at Doncaster beforehand and should be up to this task. The opposition is nothing special, though The Petitin Man tooks the improver after Newbury. Josh Gifford runs two newcomers and the market is best waiched over Hannista. Knight's One Nation with Matt Batchelor booked.

Weighting on a Call

BRITAIN WILL have a maxi- with Ladbrokes for the 2,000 mum of six runners in Mon- Guineas, while Barry Hills's day's Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse, for which 29 were from 16-1 for the Guineas with declared yesterday. They are: the same firm. Cariboo Gold and Druid's Brook (trained by Kim Bailey), Full Of Oats (Philip Hobbs), Fanfaron (Charlie Egerton), Celtic Giant (Len Lungo) and Rightsaidfred (Anna Newton-Smith). The presence of Imperial Call, the 1996 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, leaves all the British runners set to carry more than their true handicap

Meanwhile Godolphin's Iftitah has been cut to 7-1 from 8-1

CHLS

3-1 3-1 3-1 10-3 3-1

103 103 7-2 3-1 103

Fits De Crasson 10-3 11-4 9-4 11-4 12-4

FIRST SHOW ASCOT 3.10

TV TIPS

Supreme Chem 103 72 72 41 41 Country Bears B-1 7-1 B-1 15-2 13-2 Summary Cords 71-1 12-1 18-1 10-1 10-1 Each way, a quarter the acids, places 1, 2 C Corol, H William Hill, L Lenbrokes, S Sturley, T Tox ASCOT 3.40 Bebe Ast Rhorn 5-1 4-1 9-2 11-2 5-1 Vent D'Acut 8-1 10-1 9-1 8-1 Cheeck: Eagle 8-1 8-1 12-1 13-1 13-1 Papua 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 Studion 141 131 141 131 141

Strong Code 91 24 24 141 24

Tissee Of Lies 14-1 18-1 10-1 12-1 12-1

Demolog Peddy 14-1 14-1 16-1 14-1 14-1

This French E. 30-1 25-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 Each-way a quarter the oddle, places 1, 2, 3

C Const. H William Hill, L. Lachschen, S. Storley, T. Total

151 161 161 181 161 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1

251 251 251 251 251

RESULTS

NEWCASTLE Going: Fist: Good to Soft (Good in places) Jumps: Good (Good to Soft in places)

DF: C240. CSF: E480.

2.45: (2m 4f novice hundle)

1. RYALIX B Handing 5-4 fav

2. Gits Cunninghem P Niven 12-1

3. High Pyreness A Maguire 2-1

Also ran: 10-1 Simiet, 14-1 inclan Gurner

(4th), 20-1 Purauvent, 25-1 Buckskin Boy,

33-1 Not Guitty, 40-1 Furning Moss (6th),

700-1 foefire Dancer (5th), Pacific War.

11 ran. 7, nk, 7, 3, 4, (Where bay getting

by Riverthead out of Kings De Leme.

trained by M Hemmond at Middleham for

(Pennine Yarn Dyeing Ltd), Totas: 5200;

5120, 5150, 5120 DF: 51240, CSF: 51488.

1. PLATTOP __C McCormeck 10-11 fav 2. Weatwer George ____ A Dobbin 5-1 3. Inch Way ____ R McGrath 12-1 Also rant 9-2 Burnt Imp (6th), 5-1 Count Karmueki (4th), 33-1 Cooperhunst (6th), 6 rain, 3/s, 77, 3, 7t, dist, (Winner bay geld-ing by Biblioney out of New Edition, trained by M W Easterby at Shentf Hutton for Major M Watson), Total \$180, \$150, \$220. DF: \$2440, CSF: \$580.

ast: £196.11. Trilecta: £158.50.

4.25: (7f meiden stales) O ratu. 3, 2, 2, 9, Ind. (Winner bay colt by Unfaveain our of Ghassanah, trained by J Bothell at Middleherm for (Shelish Amin Dahlawi) 1, Totac \$520; \$100, \$100, \$670, DF: \$470, CSF: \$927. NR: Precious Moments.

Auction House is down to 12-1

the Same firm.

IRISH GRAND NATIONAL (Faryhouso, Monday): William Hilb 7-1 Sto Treacy, Cette Gent. Papilion. 8-1 Bobbyo, 10-1 Hollybark Buck. 12-1 Glebe Lod, Imperial Call, Marus The Man, 14-1 Promate. Rightsantfred, Roundwood. 16-1 others. Stanley: 7-1 Cette Gent. 12-2 Bob Trescy, Popilion. 8-1 Bobbyo, 11-1 Hollybank Buck, Imperial Call. 12-1 Promates. 14-1 Feathered Leader, Marus The Man, Roundwood. 16-1 Durdis Brook, Pox. Chapel King, Full Of Cats, Glebe Lad. Bightsadtred, Time For A Fun, 20-1 Carboo Godd, Rocketts. Castle. The Guads. 25-1 Fanteron, Risk Of Thurnder, 40-1 Utra Futrer, 50-1 Go Go Gelfant, Tarthooth, The Real Arbele. 86-1 Ballymanzevan, Pauls Fun, 100-1 Dearborn Tec. Onefourown.

2,000 GUINEAS (Newmarket, Standay I Mey): Leidbrokes: 9-2 Majohd, 7-1 Hoth, 6-1 Commander Colins. 10-1 Killer Instinct. Ballet Master, Emique, 11-1 Black Rock Desert. Orpen, 12-1 Auction House, 20-1 others.

HYPERION'S

ASCOT

2.40: STRONG PALADIN has taken time to get the bang of fences but now looks ready. most of Strong Gale's offspring, likes fast ground.

3.10: Kurakka looked top notch after a hat-trick at Towcester, Ascot and Sandown but at Newbury his jumping looked suspect even before he fell COUNTRY BEAU is a safer bet. Jeff King's stable is in form and he acts on firm.

3.40: Flat-bred RED GUARD should appreciate this ground. He beat Premier Generation on good going at Sandown in December and has been readied for a spring campaign. Peter Bowen's yard has been in the doldrums but the booking of Richard Dunwoody for Kinnescash looks significant.

5.00: (2m fByds handicap)

1. OLD HUSH WING ____ A Culhane 4-1

2. Cuezon City ___ Charnock 100-30 fav

3. Swifbrary ____ Deam McKeown 10-1

Also ran: 6-1 Give An Inch (4th), 7-1

Campaign (8th), 9-1 Cnder Hils. 12-1

Black Ice Boy, 14-1 Becoutoftheblue, High-field Fizz, 20-1 Ranger Sicane (8th), 40-1

tephren. Kephren.
11 ran. 6, 1, 5, 8, 1½. (Winner bay gelding by Tirol out of Sameana, trained by Mrs M Reveloy at Settburn for Mark Barrett Racing). Total ESSO, 2140, 6240. DF: £270. DEST. 0. CEP. £2370. DF: £270. DEST. 0. CEP. £2370. DF: £270. DEST. 0. CEP. £270. DEST. 0. CEP. £270. DEST. 0. DEST.

SANDOWN Going: Good to Firm (Firm in places)

2280 CSF: £547 NF: Cabbery Rose, Sputington.
3.40: 1. LINTON ROCKS (J. Tizzard) 7-2;
2. Sharp Commend 9-4 tie; 3. Vicese 15-1
6 ran. 11 4: Pinkribt, Stepton Mated, Tote:
£430: £180, £190 DF: £440, CSF: £125,
4.10: 1. DISTANT ECHO (J. Tizzard) 4-7 lar,
2. Xialpele 11-4; 3. Plander Bay 4-1.3 ran,
3½, 2. (P. Nichole, Shepton Mailed, Tote:
£150. DF: £160 CSF: £238,
4.45: 1. MARCHING MARQUIS (Mr.T. Gibney) 4-1; 2. King Torus 15-11 tay, 3. True
\$teel 13-2.7 ran. (Gary Brown, Upper Lembourn). Rote: £480; £170, £140, DF: £320,
CSF: £734. NF: Ryton Run.
Placepot: £7650, Quradpot: £320,

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<u>0891 261 970</u>

Return of the wizard for Scotland

Allan Johnston is set to help his country back to the good old days against the Czechs tonight. By Phil Shaw

SMALL, WELL balanced, with a low centre of gravity, quick feet and an innate impudence which meant he delighted in turning defenders dizzy hefore flighting his cross, the winger was once as integral to Scottish football culture as the tartan tammie, the half-time pie and the Old Firm being kept apart in semi-final draws.

From Charlie Cooke and Jimmy Johnstone through John Rohertson and Davie Cooper to Gordon Strachan and Pat Nevin, touchline trickery was a major weapon in the national team's armoury. Then the era of wing-backs and wide midfielders kicked in. The specialist winger first hecame a luxury, then an endangered species.

Just when the triumph of functionalism over flair on Scotland's flanks appeared complete, Allan Johnston jinked into view at Sunderland. The 25year-old with the classic winger's frame - he stands 5ft 7in and 9st 7lb - added a "new" dimension to the attack when introduced against Estonia and the Faroe Islands last autumn. Johnston's impact was such

that he looks certain to be asked to insinuate himself round the back of the Czech Republic's defence when the quest to qualify for Euro 2000 resumes tonight. Since Craig urging him not to forget his Brown's squad contains another winger in Rangers' Neil McCann, there is the nostalgic Johnston having been one of prospect of the Scots using the several Hearts players who full width of Celtic Park as they made the Under-21 side, strive to enhance a modest scoring record against the Group Nine favourites and Euro 96 finalists.

A Glaswegian, Johnston might have felt more at home at Ibrox had Saturday's match Brown. "He plays on the left for

Rangers (when he was not watching his brother, Sammy, who played for St Johnstone and is now assistant manager of Partick Thistle). On his last appearance there, with Heart of Midlothian early in 1996, he achieved the considerable feat of putting a hat-trick past Andy

day and kept tabs on him the following season, which Johnston spent with Rennes in France following one of the first "Bosman" transfers involving a Scot. When, after a year of fluctuating fortunes, he decided to return to Britain, the Sunderland manager landed him for a bargain £500,000.

At Hearts, Johnston was nicknamed "Sticky"; some say it was because there was nothing of him, like a stick insect, others that it came from his adhesive touch on the ball. At Sunderland, where he has forged a strong link with the left-back Michael Gray, the fans have dubbed him "Magic". The moniker may lack originality but seems appropriate given his capacity to conjure a cross when apparently boxed in by

Reid felt it was a quality of which Scotland should avail themselves and phoned Brown, player. The Scotland manager was aware of his capabilities. though he was sufficiently impressed by a first-hand appraisal to pick him for the senior pool.

"Allan did very well for us in his first two games," said

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poned. He grew up following there with the likes of Neil Mc-Cann, Callum Davidson and Stephen Glass, so we used him on the right. The pleasing thing is that he's good with both feet and happy to play either side.

"He doesn't go past people with pace - he's not going to embarrass a full-back for speed like Willie Henderson used tospace in front of defenders and makes a very good angle to incidence that Niall Quinn is getting so many goals for Sunderland this season. We haven't got any big strikers like that, but we do have guys who support well from midfield and get goals, such as Craig

"Allan's ability to cross from tight positions reminds me of ayers like Charlie Cooke and Eddie Gray. He's something of a throwback in that respect. He has terrific skill and can beat a man with clever footwork, and he's also got a nice step-over trick, excellent delivery and a good game-awareness, which is vital at international level." Scotland have grown accus-

tomed to visiting sides, from the makeweights like the Faroese to teams from the other end of Fifa's world rankings, massing behind the ball and then countering quickly, "They defy you to break them down," Brown explained, "So you need somebody like Johnston or McCann, or possibly both, to get in behind Brown cites the Netherlands

as an example of a country who favour out-and-out wingers. Yet he fears they are a dying breed, despite the emergence of Johnston, McCann and Glass (absent injured at Newcastle). "With 4-4-2, the wide men tend



dimension to the attack of both club and country

Players just don't get to the hyline like they used to.

"Club managers can huy wingers, like Rangers did with McCann and Andrei Kanchelskis and Celtic did with Jackie McNamara and Regi Blinker, but I can't do that. Even in England, there are very few on the

He speaks from experience,

stop each other going forward. having made regular crossborder incursions to check on players this most recent visit, for his sins, Brown was to Queen's Park Rangers versus Swindon). A recent trip to Sunderland, whom he saw close in on the Premiership by beating Norwich, satisfied him that Johnston's magic is in good working order. "He played very . well, and I gather he scored two

cracking goals against Bolton "I see players like Johnston,

McCann, Glass, Davidson, Barry Ferguson, Mark Burchill, Christian Dailly and maybe Paul Ritchie as the nucleus of our future team. If we can just get past this transitional period without failing to qualify, I'm sure there's a really good side in the making, with wingers to boot."

Dowie aiming for record goal

centive to find the back of the net in Moldova today. If he scores, the Queen's Park Rangers striker will equal Colin Clarke's Northern Ireland record of 13 goals.

Dowie took his tally to 12, level with four others, when he scored against Moldova at Windsor Park in November's 2-2 draw. "It would mean a lot to me to equal the record because I love playing for Northern Ireland," the 34-year-old said. "But I would swap it for a place in the European Championship finals."

Keith Gillespie should start, even though he is not fully fit, and Michael Hughes will play his penultimate match before a hernia operation. Danny Somer may make his first start in midfield, with Keith Rowland mov-

IAIN DOWIE has an extra in- BY DAVID ANDERSON

The Moldovans have selection problems, with the defenders Ivan Tabanov and Oleg Shiskin suspended, while Ion Tistemitanu is injured.

TISTEMITATIU IS ILIJUITGU.
NORTHERNI BRELAND (Probable): Tayfor (Fulham): Rowinson (Dundee Utd), Morrow (Arsensi), Williams (Chesterfield),
Sonner (Sheffield Wednesday), Lesnon
(Licester), Lorus (West Ham), Giffiespie
(Blackburn), M. Hughes (Wimbledon),
Dowrie (Queen's Park Rangers).

many v Moldova. 5 James Finland v Turk-ey. 9 June: Moldova v Finland. 4 Sept: Finland v Germany; Northern Ireland v Turkey. 6 Sept: Germany v Northern Ire-land; Moldova v Turkey. 9 Oct: Germany v Turkey. Finland v Northern Ireland.

GROUP THREE

Brown's plans kept in check

IN THE most searching exam- BY PHIL SHAW ination so far of Craig Brown's legendary powers of improvisation. Scotland will tonight attempt to extend their 12-year unbeaten home record in cometitive fixtures without a single recognised striker when they receive the Czech Republic in a potentially decisive European Championship qual-

fier at Celtic Park. The Scotland manager, intent on keeping his Czech counterpart guessing, will not announce his line-up for the game against the Group Nine eaders and 1996 finalists until the last possible moment. But a glance at the list from which he will choose would leave Jozef Chovanec in no doubt as to the makeshift nature of the Scottish attack.

Gary McAllister, who will captain Scotland on his first appearance since sustaining the knee injury which kept out of ast summer's World Cup finals, summed up Brown's lack of even one obvious marksman when he noted that he is the top scorer among the 20-man squad. His 56 caps have pro-duced a grand total of five goals - including two from penalties and two against what he self-mockingly called "the mighty Canadians".

Eoin Jess, a midfielder for much of his career, will he pressed into service as a forward, having at least played there for Aberdeen lately. Should Brown revert to his trusted 3-5-2 formation, rather than the riskier 3-4-3 which earned narrow home wins over Estonia and the Faroe Islands, Jess's prohable partner is Rangers' Neil McCann, nominally a winger, with a strong hint that another flank specialist, Sunderland's Allan Johnston, will be summoned

from the bench at some stage. By comparison with the front and back units, from which such familiar figures as Durie, Gallacher, Dailly and Hendry are missing, the Scots are spoiled for choice in midfield. Yet McAllister played down the theory that the match would be tre-backs marauding at set-

pieces as alternative sources. . Given that their opponents stand some 20 places above them at seventh in the world rankings published by Fifa, the game's global governing body, it would not surprise many observers if this were to prove to be a game too far for Brown's make-do-or-die philosophy. Yet Scotland have not lost a qualifying fixture on home soil since Mark Lawrenson's goal settled a 1987 match in the Republic of Ireland's favour, and there is a steely determination

to keep the run going. "It's a game we have to win," McAllister said, mindful that the Czechs would go eight points clear by winning. "Though a draw wouldn't be a disaster, it would make it very difficult because we'd have to win in Prague. Some of their players are household names because

in Glasgow

of Euro 96 but, while we respect them, we're not in awe of them." McAllister added: "We've got to start fast. A slow pace would suit them better than us. so we need lo try to play at a British tempo, like we did when we beat Austria at Celtic Park in the World Cup, though we also played some nice stuff that night."

Karel Poborsky, the Czechs former Manchester United winger, expressed a similar view on arriving at Glasgow airport: "If we get a good start and keep it tight, Scotland might get neryous. All the pressure's on them because they're at home and

they're five points hehind us."
Poborsky's failure to estab-lish himself at Old Trafford. like Patrik Berger's status as a "bit-part player" at Liverpool, was cited by McAllister as evidence that victory is not beyond Scotland's capabilities.

Indeed, when looked at from different perspective, the Czechs appear far from invincible. They failed to qualify for France 98, surrendered tamely to England in an autumn friendly at Wembley, and needed an "unsporting", Arsenalstyle goal to scrape through in the Faroes. They will also be

GROUP NINE

Islands v Scotland, 9 Jamer Estonia v Lithuania: Faroe Islands v Bosnia. Czecł Republic v Scotland, 15 Aug; Bosnia v Scotland (to be confirmed). Scotland flo be confirmed). Scotland; Bosnia v Scotland; Faroe Islands v Estonia; Lithuania v Czech Republic, 8 Sept: Czech Republic v Bosnia raroe Islands v Lithuania; Estonia v Scotland. 9 Oct: Estonia v Bosnia; Czech Republic v Faroe Islands. Scotland v Lithuania without a key defender, the

suspended Tomas Repka, although that still leaves with Scots with fewer than half the aggregate number of caps collected by their visitors. Brown, who watched Cho-

won or lost there. "I'm confident vanec's team labour to a 2-0, it'll be decided by our strikers, _home win over Lithuania on but there are goals in this squad Saturday, would dearly like to anyway," he said, going on to know whether the first-choice identify Craig Burley and cen-striker, Vladimir Smicer, will be partnered by the the nippier Pavel Kuka or the taller Vratislav Lokvenc. In the absence of such intelligence, he has plans for either contingency and has even rehearsed two different playing systems. If Scotland's proud record is taken, it will not be for want of meticu-

Will not be for Want of medicu-lous preparation.

SCOTLAND (3-5-2; proboble): Sufficial (Winbledon); Weld (Escron), Effect (Leocs-ter), Boyd (Cetic); Hopkin (Leeds), Bur-ley (Cetic), McAllister (Coventy), Lambert (Cetic), Davidson (Blackburn); Jess (Ab-erden), McCann (Rangers).

CZECH REPUBLIC (3-5-2, probable): Sent-cek (Sheffield Wednesday); Hornak (Spar-ta Prague). Suchoparak (Strasbourg), Wotava (Spara Prague), Nebeud (Laid), Nearek (Sorat Prague), Medwed (Laid), Nearek (Schalte Do), Berger (Liverpool); Smileer (Lets), Kaika (Nuremberg), Referee: K Nielsen (Dermark).

Uefa, football's European governing body, says it will be forced to expel from the European Championship any country "Our actions depend on the political situation which is beyond

Wales winning over sceptics

THE PENALTY for prolonged disappointment was spelf out in the men's magazine Maxim last week when it revealed that half of Welsh football fans would prefer a Great Britain team to supporting the national team. Nowhere better has the effect been quantified of failing to reach major finals. It is more than 40 years since

Wales last went head to head with the world's, or even Europe's, best, which has eroded national allegiance to the point where 50 per cent would rather get behind Tony Adams and co (with Ryan Giggs as the sole Welsh representative) than endure much more of the present.

Compare that to the Scots, who were most opposed with 74.4 per cent against, Northern Ireland (66.7) and England (65.6) and, even given the vagaries of poll results, you get an idea how important a good result is in tonight's European Championship Group One qualifier against Switzerland.

Do well in Zurich - and 2 draw is the minimum requirement - and principality patriotism will prosper, do badly and the temptation to find another outlet for international pride BY GUY HODGSON

will increase. A pressure-free match for Bobby Gould and his players tonight, then? Actually, the Wales manager

has looked anything but worried this last week because he has survived far worse. Six months ago Gould's joh prospects looked less than promising when even the Manic Street Preachers were interrupting

GROUP ONE

3012241

v Belarus. 9 June: Swi Vales v Dermark. 4 Sept: Belarus v Wales. Denmark v Switzerland. S Sept: Switzer-land v Belarus; Italy v Denmark. 9 Oct: Wales v Switzerland; Belarus v Italy.

their concerts to urge his dismissal hut victories over Denmark and Belarus last October radically altered the position.

"My head was in a noose and tightening," Gould said, "then we won two games and the atmosphere and situation has changed. Now we have to address the change and

pressure that comes from creating a situation of greatest expectation.

"I recall Graham Henry (Wales' rugby union coach) was in a similar situation after two bad results this season against Ireland and Scotland. People were getting on at him, but then Wales go to Paris and produce a wonderful performance and a wonderful victory. The emotion that was shown on and off the field was fantastic. Gould's squad is at its most

harmonious since he took over three years ago, although it has not always been that way thanks to public wrangles with John Hartson, Gary Speed, Robbie Savage and Ian Rush, That has been brushed aside

by success since as Hartson, back in the fold after nine months' absence, confirmed. The players look forward to joining up with the squad," he said, "and, no disrespect to anyone, it wasn't always like that. Results change things. If you're getting stuffed the manager comes in and wants to know what's going wrong, what are we doing wrong? If you win games you don't have meetings like

that. The lads here have had

days off, played golf and everything is going well. Everybody is flying."

Everyone, that is, except Giggs, who is Wales' only worldclass player and who misses tonight's match with a hamstring injury incurred playing for Manchester United in the European Cup. His absence against the Swiss, who beat Belarus on Saturday, could be hurtful although, in Wales' favour, their last two wins were without him.

Even so, when Gould followed an item on cloning on Radio Four's Today yesterday, he could not resist asking for a Giggs clone as the perfect present, underlining how important is his pace and the fear he instills in the opposition.

But, as Gould said yesterday, you can only work with what you have got and the biggest weapon at his disposal is renewed confidence. "We have won two games ! back to back," he said, "the squad have been away, looked at the group table and come back for this game in a very positive mood believing they can really achieve something

Now if he can only convince the Welsh public.

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Now Wasps decide smaller is better

THIS DOWNSIZING lark appears to be catching on. Wasps, the workaholic London club who go into this weekend's Tetley's Bitter Cup semi-final with Gloucester at Loftus Road as tournament favourites, are the latest Premiership outfit to decide that the only way to grow ger is to get smaller. Eight time professionals can expect to feel the cold wind of reection at the end of the season. leaving Nigel Melville and com-

RUGBY UNION By CHRIS HEWETT

The more cynical observer

will point out that with Lawrence Dallaglio coining a reported £200,000 a year under the terms of his new 24-month contract - regardless of whether that figure is remotely accurate. the England captain will not be playing for peanuts - Wasps might find it difficult to adhere

alone the £1.5m proposal currently being kicked around the rugby boardrooms of England. Indeed, the 1997 national

champions have reduced further their supply of the folding stuff by agreeing an extended two-year deal with Kenny Logan, their Scottish international wing. Nevertheless, they are con-

"London clubs are different to big-town clubs elsewhere, fident of cementing their place simply because there is so among the English élite, espemuch Premiership activity in pany with a reduced squad of 26. to a salary cap of any sort, let £4.5m parent company share cially now that the fruits of a and around the capital London's rugby public is a floating

rector of rugby, yesterday.

"We're beginning to build "The fact that we're averthe kind of supporter base we

aging over 8,000 a game at Lofneed to carry the project through and establish ourtus Road suggests we're selves as one of the strong providing the right sort of prodclubs, both here and in Euuct on the field." rope," said Melville, their di-

Wasps' London rivals, Saracens, also felt they had their "product" right after going close to a league and cup double last season, but their failure to continue in the same vein has led to a serious player cull at Vicarage Road. Chronic cash-

flow problems have forced Richmond, another ambitious capital outfit, to wield the axe even more brutally.

"Like many others, we have some tough decisions to make." admitted Melville, "but the fact that we'll have to cut back on the sound numbers means that people are desperate to play for their places. The strong survive in these circumstances.

Peter Scrivener, the quietly effective No 8 whose recent performances have been central to

Wasps' late-season purple ius Hurter, who suffered a Gloucester outing on Sunday because of concussion.

Melville, who names his side today, will consider moving Joe Worsley from the open-side row and recalling Paul Volley to the breakaway position.

Newcastle, who face Richmond at the Madejski Stadium in Saturday's semi-final, may well travel south without their former Springbok prop, Mar-

patch, will definitely miss the neck injury during the Falcons' 57-16 thumping at Northampton four days ago. Ian Peel definitely deputises for the big Northern Transvaaler in tonight's Premiership match flank to the middle of the back with London Scottish and will almost certainly continue there if Hurter is ruled out of the cup match.

Richard Metcalfe is to undergo a back operation and will miss the remainder of Northamptop'a season.

Leicester ticket inquiry delayed

LEICESTER CITY say it could be a fortnight before they name any guilty parties in the Worthington

By JOHN CURTIS
Cup final ticket row.

The club are investigating ims into alleged illegal ticketing which caused segregation problems and led to violence in the first half at Wembley. Trouble flared up behind the goal at the Wembley tunnel end, which as reserved for Leicester fams.

One Leicester director, Phil Smith, has admitted he sold 42 match tickets to players and officials of Padbury United, where be is club president. But he has

Leicester's commercial director Charles Rayner said in a land centre-half was back in statement "Leicester City FC is continuing its investigations with Wembley into ticket sales for the Worthington Cup final. We will not be releasing any information regarding this issue until the investigation has been comnleted, which could take up to an-

other two weeks."

Tony Adams faces a rigorous fitness test today to determine ignored calls from supporters' the extent of his participation in groups calling for his resignation. the crucial eight-day pro-

Schmeichel 'will be leaving' say United

sterday that their goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel, would definitely leave the club in May. Schmeichel announced his decision to quit English football last November but a recent run of good form had prompted speculation that United might try to persuade the Dane to change his mind.

"Peter Schmeichel is leaving at the end of the season. He's announced his retirement from football in England and is going to play abroad. That hasn't changed," the club's chief executive, Martin Edwards, said.

Edwards added that most of the United squad were on long-

ANCHESTER UNITED said Keane, who has one more year to go after this season ends.

The negotiations with him. contrary to what you may have read in the papers, haven't even started yet," Edwards

Mallorca's Argentinian goalkeeper, Carlos Roa, who was being touted as a possible replacement for Schmeichel, is considering retiring at the end of the season, according to his club coach, Hector Cuper,

Cuper, quoted in yesterday's Spanish sports daily Marca, said that the 29-year-old might retire in June, although he insisted that no decision had yet been taken. "He's going to term contracts, the exception make a final decision at the end being the club captain, Roy of the season," Cuper said.

destiny of the Premiership champions' bid to repeat their League and FA Cup Double.

The Arsenal captain and Englight training yesterday after withdrawing from England's game against Poland with a recurrence of back and ankle problems. The big test comes today when his manager Arsène Wenger weighs up the chances of Adams facing Southampton at The Dell on Saturday, Blackburn at Highbury on Tuesday and Manchester United in the FA Cup the following Sunday.

Craig Moore's projected swift return to Rangers is nearing completion, with the player eager to rejoin the club he left earlier this season.

The Australian international defender departed for Crystal Palace for £800,000 in October after he rejected a new Ibrox deal. Rangers' manager Dick Advocaat was disappointed at losing the player and now, with Palace's financial problems, is poised to welcome Moore back. falks are ongoing with the player's agent with a view to agreemg a four-year deal. A group of Nigerian prosti-

tutes has threatened nude protests at World Youth Cup matches after being barred from hotels by tournament organisers. Charity Emeyon of the Association of Practising Prostitutes of Nigeria said that hundreds of women would . march. naked through the. streets if authorities did not bow to their demand to be able to operate freely.



Oxford University (right) race against their reserve crew, Isis, yesterday in preparation for Saturday's Boat Race

Robert Hallam

Gretzky adds another record to his list

WAYNE GRETZKY passed another milestone on Monday night when the 1,072nd goal of. his career made him the alltime leading scorer in the his-

tory of the sport. Already the holder of virtually every NHL single-season and career scoring record, Gretzky, 38, had been stuck on Association. 1,071 since 4 February, missing. When Gret 12 games due to a neck injury

ICE HOCKEY closest rivals, the New York

Islanders. The goal took him past his boyhood idol Gordie Howe. The record includes regular-season and play-off games in the NHL and the deforct World Hockey

When Gretzky broke Howe's NHL career goal-scoring mark, His goal gave the New York Gretzky complained that his Rangers a 3-1 victory over their WHA goals should have been

included in the record. Now Gretzky is the undoubted No 1 by any measure - except ssibly his own.

"It's a goal I will never forget," Gretzky said. "Gordie Howe is the greatest player who ever played this game. It's such an honour to break the record of a man of his stature."

The win was also notable for the Rangers, who completed their first season sweep of

1972-73, the Isles' first year in the NHL. Rangers' leading scorer,

Adam Graves, and Mariusz Czeckawski of the Islanders traded second-period goals. leaving the teams deadlocked heading into the third period.

With less than three minutes remaining, Gretzky skated in and tapped his own rebound past goaltender Wade Flaherty for an unassisted goal that took

"It was kind of a garbage goal," he said, "More important, it was a big goal for us. It came at a time when the team really needed a win, and I was ecstatic."

John MacLean added an empty-netter with 43 seconds left to seal the win as the Rangers, fourth of five in the Atlantic Division, climbed to within five points of Boston for the final play-off place in the Eastern Conference.

November date for Lewis-Holyfield bout

LENNOX LEWIS may have to wait until November for a beavweight title rematch with Evander Holyfield, according to the British fighter's promoter, Panos Eliades.

Evander's signed up with Don King and Don is talking to me about doing a rematch possibly as late as November of this year" he said on BBC radio. The site is possibly Las

Vegas," he added. Everybody wants the fight. 1 're had offers from Saudi Arabia. I've had offers from South Africa. But Las Vegas is the one that really wants the fight and they are pushing the price sky high. King also wants to keep it in America," Eliades said. He also said he was prepared to be

the main promoter of the fight. The first fight between Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, and Holyfield, the World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation champion, was widely derided, with most observers concluding that the Briton had outpointed the American.

unify the world heavyweight

to lift him from mediocrity to excellence.

admitted only a Lewis victory will settle the furore bubbling up on both sides of the Atlantic since the draw was announced. tle bit better next time he can out the title in the throw. He has a right to claim the title for his own and make the whole world happy," added King.

SPORTING DIGEST BADMINTON

The former England champion, Ray Stevens, was yesterday named coach of the national team, following Elliot Swart's resignation. Stevens has been given a three-month contract, to cov-er the Surdiman Cup world mixed team championships, and the world individual championships at Copenhagen in May.

BASKETBALL Edinburgh Rocks have re-apedinburgh Kocks have re-ap-pointed their coach, Jim Brandon, for another year following the club's promising debut campaign in the Budweiser League.

The Manchester Giants coach, Nick Nurse, has been banned for two games and fined £300 for verbally abusing officials after his side is de-feat at Sheffield Sharks on 19 NBA: Indiana 82 Atlanta 83; Dallas

101 Seattle 109; Denver 100 LA Clip-pers 88; LA Lakers 116 Vancouver 98. BOWLS

BOWLS

GREENALLS SPRING WATERLOO
(Blackpool) second round: N Dean
(Altrinciam) bt F Taylar |Lymm)
21-7; G Soller (Altrincham) bt D
Richardson (Wigan) 21-20; F Grundy
(Orrell) bt N Crocken (Bury) 21-7; D
Leigh (Altrincham) bt K Woolham
(Urmston) 21-19; A Broadhurst
(Wigan) bt P Cousins (Pudsey) 21-8; D
Barlow (Altrincham) bt M Alman
(Pudsey) 21-18; C Morrison (Sale) bt
D Wright (Broadheath) 21-12; P Kelsalf (Timperley) bt W Tuson (Astley)
21-11.

BOXING FEI agents have discovered human bones in the yard of a New Jer-sey home during their search for a missing Russian botter. Sergei Kobozev, a former member of the Soviet national boxing team who emigrated to the United States in 1991, went missing in November

CYCLING The French cyclist, Richard Virenque, has been charged by a magistrate with breaking his country's anti-doping laws. The 28-year-old lead rider, a member of last season's disgraced Festi-

na team, is accused of knowing-ly using and administering dop-SPEEDWAY ing products and complicity to import, hold, transfer, supply and acquire poisonous and pro-hibited substances. Virenque, who now rides for the Italian Polti

FOOTBALL NATIONNIDE LEAGUE: Re-arranged flature: Fri 23 Apr. Bury v Bolton (from 24 Apr.). Change to kick-off time: Fri 2 Apr. Colchester v Preston: 7.45 (from 3.0).

team, has persistently denled ever taking banned substances.

ICE HOCKEY NHL: NY Rangers 3 NY Islanders 1; Vancouver 1 Phoenix 0.

MARATHON Morocco's Khalid Khannouchi has

worocco's Anaud Mannouchi as-been forced to withdraw from this year's London race on 18 April be-cause of an Achilles injury. How-ever, Tegla Loroupe of Kenya and Spain's Fabian Roncero, the re-spective winners of the women's and men's events in Rotterrans and men's events in Rotterdam last year, have confirmed that they will run.

RUGBY UNION iRB-FIRA WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPTONSHIP (Inesday): Sec-ond Round (Bridgend): Wales 29 Argentina 5: (Glamorgan Wander-ers): Japan 16 Romana 18: (Dumers): Japan 10 komania 18: [Dum-wamt): Ireland 24 Italy 15: (Abertillery): South Africa 33 France 24: [Aberawon): England 39 Poland 3: [Dumwant): Georgia 7 Chile 11: (Pontypridd): New Zealand 74 Cana-'da 0. Semi-final draws Ireland v New Zealand 6 00: South Africa u Maller and (6.0); South Africa v Wales (8.0) (both matches at Bridgend, to-morrow).

SNOOKER

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONISHIP qualifying (Felford International Centre) Round seven: 5
O'Connor (Rep of Iri) bt II Gray (Eng)
10-5: R Lawler (Eng) bt N Terry (Eng)
10-3: M Davis (Eng) bt C Shade (Sco)
10-4: L Griffin (Eng) bt L Walker (Wal)
10-6: P Sweeny (Eng) bt W Thome
(Eng) 10-0: N Walker (Eng) bt O Tayior (N Iri) 10-3: S Lawes (Eng) bt C Harrison (Eng) 10-5: C MacGillivray (Sco)
bt T Chappel (Wal) 10-8: G Greene
(Eng) bt L Richardson (Eng) 10-3: A
Burden (Eng) bt O O'Kane (NZ) 10-4:
C Scanion)Eng) bt S Ali (Pak) 10-7. SNOOKER

FOOTBALL RESULTS

to black to get within a frame of victory before winning the Postponed: Clydebank v PONTINS LEAGUE Sectoral 1.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS; O'M Shield: Wolverhampton 57 loswich 33: enge Match: Exerci 49 Poole 41.

SWIMMING Barcelona is to stage the 2003

world championships. TENNIS The first-round Federation Cup tie

between the United States and Croatia, which was due to be played in Zagreb on 17-18 April, has been switched to an as-yet unspecified American venue because of the conflict in the Balkans. The Euro-Africa Zone Davis Cup tie between Yugoslavia and Morocco from 30 April to 2 May has been switched to Morocco for the same reason. The Marseilles Open winner, Fabrice Santoro, will not play in France's Davis Cup world group

first round match against the Netherlands at Nimes this weekend because of a rib Injury. WIA FAMILY CIRCLE CUP (Hilto WIA FAMILY CIRCLE CUP (Hillow Head, South Carolina) Women's singles, first round: N Dechy (Fr) bt M Shaughnessy (US) 6-2 6-4; A-G Sidot (Fr) bt C Morariu (US) 2-6 6-3 6-4; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt S Smith (GB) 6-4 6-3; A Schett (Aut) bt A Kremer (Lux) 6-1 7-6; R Dragomir (Rom) bt L Osterioh (US) 6-2 6-0; A Rippner (US) th M de Swanti SA, 6-2 6-7, N Vaere. bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-2 6-2; N Zvere-va (Bul) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz Rep) 7-5

6-3 6-3; R Grande (It) bt A 5 tevers (US) 2-6 6-4 7-5; E Makarova (Rus) bt 1. Neikand (Lat) 6-4 6-0; I Majoli)Croal bt E Gagliardi (Swit) 7-5 5-7 6-4; 5 Plis-chke (Aut) bt 8 Rittner)Ger) 6-3 6-2; va (Rus) 4-6 6-4 6-3. OBANK TOUR (S

Men's sugles, second round: S
Harston (Essex) bt 8 Fulcher (Norfolk)
7-5 6-0; J Marray (Yorks) bt T Spinks
(Norfolk) w/c; P Hand (Berks) bt M Ellames (Essex) 7-6 6-3; R Hanger
(Dorset) bt C Edmondson)Lanes)
w/o; N Gould (Awon) bt J Calins (South Wales) 6-0 6-2; J Fox (Lincs) bt M Trud-geon (Cornwall) 7-5 6-2; J Smith (Northants) bt R Matheson (West of Scotland) 7-6 1-0 rtd; II Crawley (Norfolk) bt V Snyman (SA) 6-2 6-3. Momen's singles, second round: L Perkins (Durham and Cleveland) bt J O'Donoghue (Lancs) 3-6 6-1 6-3; C Ud-ofa (Nigeria) bt L Collinson (Oxon) 6-1 6-3; N Trinder (Northumberland) bt N Woodhouse (Norfolk) 6-4 6-2: J Os man (Sussex) bt H Broome (Lancs) 6-3 6-1: A Blow (Leics) bt C Coombs (Kent) 6-3 6-1; Y Doyle (Rep of Ire) bt Barrett (Wilts) 6-1 6-0; M Berry (Suf 'olk) bt Silverstone (Surrey) 6-3 6-4; G Atherton (Lancs) bt J Dawson (Sus-

League because of the Nato air strikes against Serbia.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL **EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**

Switzerland v Wales (7.15)
(at Letzigrund Stodium, Zurich)
GROUP TWO
Latvia v Greece (4,30)
(at Dougana Stadium, Riga)

Postponed: Slovenia v Albania. GROUP THREE loldova v Northern Ireland (5.0) ..

GROUP FOUR France v Armenia (7.45) (at Stade de France, St-Denis) ine v Iceland (5,0) (ot Olympic Stadium, Klev)

GROUP FIVE mbourg v Bulgaria (7.0) ... (ot Josy Barthel Studium, Luxembourg)

land v Sweden (at Slaski Stadlum, Charzow) GROUP SDK San Marina v Spain (8.20) (at Olympic Stadium, Serravalle)

Liechtenstein v Portugal (at Rheinpark Stadium, Vaduz)

GROUP EIGHT: Postponed: Croat-la v Malta; Yugoslavia v Macedonia. GROUP NINE

Scatland v Czech Republic (8.0) (at Celtic Park, Glasgow) INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY: Neth-

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE Forest Green v Hednesford (7.45) UNIBOND LEAGUE First Division Congleton Town v Nethericiu.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Division: Racing Warwick v Redditch Uto
Solihuil Boroson v Cinderford Town
Southern Division 5t Leonards v Andrew League Cop Seral-final, secsouriem Unision 5t Leonards v Andover, League Cap Serol-final, second leg: Sutton Coldifield v Boston Utd.
RYMAN LEAGUE Second Division:
Banstead v Harlow. Tabrd Dhalsion:
Tring v East Thurrock.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Pro**mler Division:** Cray Wanderers v Faversham Town; VCD Athletic v Whit-LIMISPORT UNITED COUNTIES
LEAGUE Premier Division: Stewarts
& Loyds Corby v Long Buckby.
UNITET SUSSER COUNTY LEAGUE
First Division: Hassocks v Redhill.
SCREWIFF DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bireford v Birecon.

mier Division: Bideford v Elmore. NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE Islon: Leek CSOB v Ske

JENISON WESSEX LEAGUE: Cowes Sports v Hamble; Moneyfields v Brock-ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedlington Terriers v Seaham Red Star. PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Deveronvale v Peterhead)8.0[; Huntly v Buckle Thistic.

J8.0]; Hintily V Buckle Thistle. PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Birningham v Blackburn J7.15). First Division: Bolton v Oldham (7.0); Mid-diesbrough v Manchester City (7.0); Port Vale v Barnstey (7.0); West Bromwich v Trannere (7.0), Second Division: Huddersfield Wiedham (7.0); Lincoln v Notes County (2.0); Silvewsbury v Stockport (7.0), Taird Division: Carisie v Hulf (2.0); Hallifax v Darlinston (2.0); Harchepot v (7.0), Tührd Didisloo: Cartisle v Huli (2.0); Hallfax v Darlington (2.0); Hartlepool Chester (2.0); Wigan v Rochdale (2.0).

AWON INSURANCE COMBINATION

First Division: Brentford v West Ham

(7.0); Brighton v Bournemouth (7.0); Cambridge v Fulham (2.0); Ipswich v Colchester (7.0); Peterborough v Barrel

(7.0); Portsmouth v Southampton (7.30);
Swindon v Chelsea (7.15), Peastponed:
Watford v Luton: Crystal Palace v Tottenham.

> RUGBY UNION 7.30 unless stated ALLIED DUNBAR

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION export v Pontypridd (7.0) ... Club Match: Blackheath v Royal Navy.

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE Thames Valley v Leicester (8.0) .

OTHER SPORTS SNOOKER: Embassy World Champi-onship Qualifying (at Telford Interna-tional Centre). TENNIS: Girobank Tour (Sunderland).

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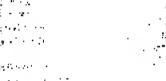
ternational Helsinki

aran Rhodes,

their eyes:





















. . -- -

"Tve got until the end of the World Championship to make my mind up as to what the luture holds. don't know what I'm going to to but after 28 years on the professional circuit that would be an embarrassing way to finish my career. Anyone watching out there who didn't know 11th on the blue.

final, was defeated 10-3 by Nick

Walker, the world No 67 from

Chester And the 50-year-old

from Northern Ireland said:

Telford

DESTINITATION will consider bis future in the game after SNOOKER

> ing worked for me." there is still a chance that he will play for one more season.

Yesterday, Hong Kong's Marco Fu needed only 37 min-

BOXING King has since publicly backed Lewis to win the rematch with Holyfield and become the first British fighter to

title this century.
King said: "Lennox Lewis will get justice in the rematch. He is a tenacious, determined young man and he will make sure that justice is done. Adversity brings these things out of great fighters, and the draw is the best thing that could have happened to Lewis

Speaking on ITV's An Audience with Lennox Lewis to be broadcast next Saturday, King "If Lennox can do it just a lit-

Taylor considers future

crashing out of this year's Emcouldn't play. I've put in a lot of bassy World Championships in hard practice for this but noththe seventh qualifying round at With his manager, Ian Doyle, The former winner, who enhaving received 3,000 letters riched the folklore of the from Taylor fans pleading for game's leading event by their favourite to continue, squeezing past Steve Davis 18-17 on the black in the 1985

me would have thought I

utes to wrap up a 10-1 victory over Jason Ferguson and move to within two rounds of a place in the final stages. Fu, closing in on a top-32 ranking next season, led 8-1. overnight and when play resumed he cleared from brown EUROPEAN UNDER-21

ationeman's Lorie RESOLTS: Unificant Allogue Primaler Divinione Emily i Rumonn I, Dri Harrams Langue Praminer Divinione: High i Rumonn I, Dri Harrams Langue Praminer Divinione: Redelitch Und D Weston-super-Mare O. Ryman League Primar Drivanto Dri

VOLLEYBALL The Yugoslavian team has been dropped from this year's World

THE INDEPENDENT

RETURN OF THE WINGER P22 O TONY BANKS TALKS TO BRIAN VINER P1

Atherton pulls out of World Cup



ENGLAND SUFFERED their first World Cup casualty yesterday when Michael Atherton withdrew from the 15-man squad following the recurrence of a

level must now be seriously in doubt, compromised as it is by an increasingly unreliable back. The Lancashire opener will fly home from Pakistan, where which have made my back stiff-England are preparing for a one-day tournament in Sharjah.

ture as a reliable opener at Test

a process that could sideline him for several months. "To be honest, declaring myself unfit is a weight off my mind," Atherton said last night,

He will consult further expert

opinion and undergo treatment,

BY DEREK PRINGLE

speaking from his hotel in long-standing back injury. His fu-Lahore. "I'm disappointed because I really worked hard in Cape Town, where I've been playing with Lancashire, and I felt I'd achieved full mobility.

"But two long air flights, en up again, have shown me that it's not properly right. In light of that, and the fact that I've had enough of trying to play when not 100 per cent fit, I had no choice but to pull out. I now want to have a period of rehab to get my body properly right, which I am confident I can do."

Lengthy air journeys - his two trips took the best part of 35 hours - were not the only factors at play. Atherton felt that the need to prove his fitness, although understandable from the selectors' point of view, green pitches. was rushed.

"After the denervation I had a month ago [a procedure whereby the nerve sending pain from his back is killed off) I felt a more gradual huild-up, rather than the mad two days of running around at Lilleshall that I did, would have been better I have no gripe, though - the selectors and the captain need-

Atherton was one of four World Cup players specifically

required to prove their fitness of faith over recent months, in Lahore and Sharjah and the with neither player nor physio selectors will have already earmarked potential replacements for the former captain, whose back has forced him to pull out selection was largely down to his skill as a technician on

Presuming England will replace like with like, then the role fect both tactics and morale, will probably fall to Nasser Hussain or Mark Ramprakash, though the Leicestershire pair of Darren Maddy and Ben Smith will also be considered. Either lems - a chronic inflammation way, the selectors must decide by today, the deadline by which 15-man World Cup squads must be named.

Selecting Atherton for duty has become something of an act from the Test against Sri Lanka

most of them as captain. able to guarantee fitness for This time he did not even more than a few hours. In fact, over the last eight months his

of Tests three times, some-Sharjah. times on the morning of the "Michael let me know soon match. Such uncertainty can afparticularly within the confines of a 15-man squad, where replacements are strictly vetted.

Given the nature of his probof the vertebrae has recently been exacerbated by a disc problem - it is something of a minor miracle he has played so often. Before his withdrawal

Tests appearances on the trot.

make it to the nets in Lahore, where England are acclimatising for the Coca-Cola Cup in

after he woke up," revealed the chairman of selectors, David Gravency, who is also managing England's trip to Lahore and Sharjah.

Michael knew he was back to square one," admitted Graveney, "so he didn't try to hide or conceal it. We appreciate his honesty, but we're very disappointed for him because we know what he's been trying

last August, he had managed 62 to do over the past two months.

There appearances on the trot. tried to get through the next few weeks, but by making a bold decision now, he's again shown that he's a team man."

Graveney was less forgiving over what Atherton, now 31 and with a possible four to five years more Test cricket in him. would have to do to gain selection in future. "We as selectors. need him to prove to us over a lengthy period of time that he is injury-free, and that would mean playing on a regular basis for Lancashire," he said.

Atherton's iron will may just ensure that the recuperation period, however long, is not a

Lara's century defies Australia

BRIAN LARA set up a BY BRIAN MCKENNA thrilling finale in the third Test in Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday as West Indies fought hack from what seemed a hopeless situation.

The West Indies captain was unbeaten on 112 as his team reached tea 54 short of their target of 308, hut with only two wickets standing. They had looked well-placed at 238 for five, only for Glenn McGrath to claim three quick wickets to turn what has been a superb match back in Australia's

The pace bowler, who claimed four wickets in the first innings, ended the 133-run sixth-wicket partnership between Lara and Jimmy Adams by clean bowling Adams for 36. Minutes later he trapped Ridley Jacobs, who scored 68 in the first innings, lbw for five, and got Nehemiah Perry first ball. also lbw, to take his match haul

Lara and Adams, who put on a record fifth-wicket partnership of 322 in the second Test, after an early steadying acpend on their skipper. hon. Lara cut loose, particularly after lunch. He hrought up his Tests have West Indies scored 50 with a huge six over midwicket off Shane Warne and

in Bridgetown, Barbados

West Indies 329 & 254-8

marks, the Kensington Oval crowd was treated to a nerve-tingling new-hall battle between Lara and pacemen McGrath and Jason Gille-

The contest was encapsulated by one fierce over when McGrath struck Lara on the helmet with a houncer and Lara responded with a mighty pull to the midwicket boundary. As McGrath and Gillespie

tired, the West Indies captain, who scored 213 to win the second Test virtually single-hand- Rain forced the abandonedly, went for his shots.

But McGrath showed just why he is rated by many as the world's best bowler by turning bowler had claimed the sixth lbw decision of the innings. Curtly Ambrose survived the came together nine overs into hat-trick ball and then two the final day with their team in more overs without scoring deep trouble at 105 for five. But but West Indies' hopes now de-

Only three times in 350 more than 300 to win a Test. They scored 348 for five against In between those two land- against England at Lord's in

1984 and 317 for two against Pakistan in Georgetown during

WEST BIDIES - Second Imales
(Overnight: 85 for 3)

A F G Griffith low b Gillespie 31:
BC Lara not out. 11:
C1 Hooper c Heely b Gillespie 6.
J C Adams b McGrath 5.
N O Perry Row b McGrath 5.
N O Perry Row b McGrath 0.
CE L Ambrose not out. 0.
Estrate (08 1011 W1 nb 4) 24
Rotal (for 8, 105 cowers) 254
Fall (cont): 4-91 5-105 6-238 7-248
Ro base C A Wales

8-246. To bat: C A Walsh. Bowflag: McGrath 38-12-69-5; Gille-spie 22-8-49-2 (nb3): Warme 20-4-53-0 (nb1): MacGill 20-6-45-1; 5 R Waugh 5-0-19-0 (w1). E A Nicholis (WI) and O L Or-

ment of the sixth and final one day international between New Zealand and South Africa at Wellington's Basin Reserve vesthe tables again. After the terday although the home side can still square the series if the match can be replayed today. Contributions from the top five South African batsmen helped the tourists to a score of 249 to 4 in 48.4 overs before rain brought the innings to a premature close and then prevented any further play. Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs appeared to put the tourists on course for reached his century with an on-driven four off the same bowler. during 1968-69, 344 for one Gibbs edged Dion Nash to wicketkeeper Adam Parore.



The West Indies captain, Brian Lara, hits a boundary in his side's run chase against Australia in Barbados yesterday

Reuters.

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



- See bird go round side
- 9 Chap putting book in waste receptacle (7) 11 Phones teacher in front
- of class (7) 12 One's expected to be
- aware of this conversa-tional filler (3,4)
- 13 Facial hair given new common hair colour (5) 14 A sporting Frenchman? That's applied to no French leader of old (9)

16 Very seductive female

secretary with flowing

Colour Print, St Afrans Road, Watford

- hair (9) 19 What cyclists do - ring bells when going round end of road (5)
- 21 Resort in US or some extra needed (7) 23 Info associated with
- glowing ring element (7) 24 Thinking of great cost in dumping former partner (7) 25 With which one hears the
- bath outlet, not piano (7) 26 Upset ends with yearlong meeting of ministers et. al. (7.5)
 - DOWN Musical work flowed, carried by very good
- singer (7)
 Red lips to be involved in study (7) Bargain? I get a note in 22 More than half of event change (9)

Inconsistent France

ousting Portugal in angry display (5) Second position adopted in long argument (7) Middle Eastern country held up Christmas, introducing prohibition (7) Course where one encounters a group of characters (8,4) 10 Some American seeming to be from Green-

land? (3,9) 15 Ancient writer says hard

15 Ancient writer says hard clue needs rewriting (9) 17 The writer penning Eng-lish language medley (7) 18 Annuity scheme giving money in style (7) 19 Figure college's almost destroyed (7) 20 Tree to be of benefit

around capital of Wales in theatre is a musicdrama (5)

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers,

KEVIN KEEGAN returned to FOOTBALL BY GLENN MOORE

London this morning from a family break in the north-east with one match on his mind -Fulham's Easter Monday visit to Reading in the Nationwide League Second Division.

At Lancaster Gate, however, the Football Association was looking further ahead, to September and England's final Euro 2000 qualifying matches against Luxembourg and Po-

England's 3-0 victory over Poland on Saturday, while delighting the FA, has increased its dependence on Fulham's chief operating officer to the extent that it is considering the possibility of allowing him to manage the side part-time through to the autumn.

The FA recognises that, should Keegan lead the team to success in the June qualifying matches against Sweden and Bulgaria, it would be a public relations disaster, and probably a footballing error to then dispense with him if he refused to go full-time.

Noel White, the chairman of the International Committee, the group charged with finding Glenn Hoddle's successor, told The Independent "If we are ENGLISH EYES will be looking within a cat's whiskers of qualifying by then it might be possible for Kevin to continue with England on the same basis - unless he's changed his mind and of winning automatic qualifiwants to have a go full-time."

That remains the FA's preferred option and it was given succour by the announcement by Mohammed Al Fayed, Ful-

from his contract, which expires in the summer of 2000, as "a gift to the nation". This would relieve Keegan of what he clear-

ly regards as a debt of honour. Keegan, who was appointed England coach last month, has so far insisted he will relinquish the post after completing his four-match stint in June but he did say after Saturday's victory that a "there might be a so-

This encouraged the FA acting chairman, Geoff Thompson, who said: "Perhaps after be has heen successful in his next matches he - and the country - will feel he is the right man for the job and that he is the right man to lead us into the European Championship in the Low Countries next year."

The FA is still considering alternatives - "we need a fallback position," said one official -hut is in almost daily contact Keegan: 'Right man'

ability to delegate, to Frank Sibley at Fulham, and to Arthur Cox, Derek Fazackerly and Howard Wilkinson with Eng-

Against him is the danger that England could come second, rather than first in the group, and have to endure a home-and-away play-off in November

Given England's poor start. the FA would probably settle for



Poland 'must win' Sweden game

towards Chorzow tonight where Poland, their victims at Wembley last Saturday, must beat Sweden or abandon hope cation for Euro 2000 from

Sweden have a perfect haul of nine points from three by Mohammed Al Fayed, Ful-ham's owner, that he would be Sweden win they will go six prepared to release Keegan points clear of England, having fender Tomasz Hajto, who an accident."

Group Five.

BY TOMMY STANIFORTH

played the same number of

Xesterday Poland's coach, win." The defeat against Engover as coach last year.

earned his second yellow card of the group at Wembley, and the striker Sylwester Czereszewski.

months. But what then?

If England qualify the cur-

it would be impossible for Kee-

gan to combine coaching Ful-

ham, who could be involved in

promotion play-offs up until

late May, and also prepare Eng-

land for a major championship.

However, it also feels that,

should England qualify, it would

be self-evident that the

policy although clarification -

and maybe Keegan agreeing to take the joh full-time - could

come once Fulham have

secured promotion from the

leaving in June. Peter Taylor,

the Under-21 coach, yesterday

revealed that he will be re-

placed. Taylor, who was ap-

pointed by Hoddle, probably

expected it, though his reign

has been largely successful.

One England coach will be

Second Division

The result is a wait-and-see

arrangement is working.

Tommy Soderberg, Sweden's coach, is likely to play the same Janusz Wojcik, said: "We are team that beat Luxembourg playing at home and we must 2-0 on Saturday and is expecting Poland to attack from the land was their first loss in 10 start. "I am sure Poland will games under Wojcik, who took make it an onslaught," he said. "They want to show that the loss Poland will be without the deagainst England last week was

FA close to Keegan solution with Keegan. In his favour is his that and allow Keegan to con-run on his contract, claimed be tinue-for another couple of was told he did not fit into Wilkinson's long-term plans. Wilkinson then issued a state: rent view within the FA is that ment claiming Taylor had been offered a new role in the Foot-

> sibilities" The statement added that these responsibilities were to include "coach education and involvement with international teams which could have included the England Under-21

hall Association's technical

department with "new respon-

Taylor was clearly not prepared to put up with what he saw as a diluting of his position. after having the power to select the side under Hoddle. He is likely to be replaced by David Platt in the short-term, working alongside Wilkinson initial before assuming full control 15 judge from his comments yesterday, this aspect will not please Taylor.

He said: Twe got the utmost respect for Howard Wilkinson. He has a tremendous knowledge of the game and if he takes over the Under-21s I can understand that. But I can only be honest and if someone with lesser experience than myself takes over then I would be even more disappointed that I

wasn't the choice." Platt has already worked under Wilkinson in the England Under-18 set-up and his involvement is part of a long-term strategy to groom international coaches which, the FA hopes, will prevent the England team having to share a club manager ever again.

Leicester inquiry, page 23

Nice and

CHR HOM

***THE INDEPENDENT**

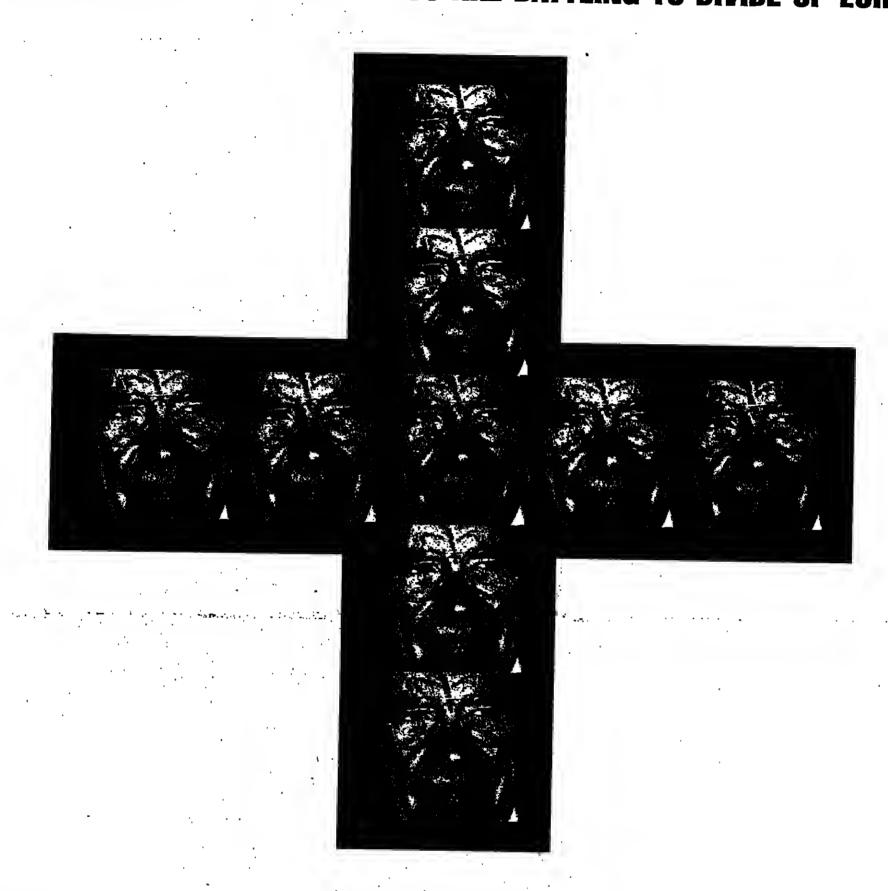
Wednesday 31 March 1999

BUSINESS REVIEW

DANGEROUS EQUATIONS

المنافعة الدولية

HOW RUPERT MURDOCH + CANAL PLUS ARE BATTLING TO DIVIDE UP EUROPE'S TV



Inside: Is Tomkins a fashion victim or fatally flawed? Page 5 Who's funding the Internet frenzy? Page 4 Revealed: the biggest noise in the music biz. Page 6

Plus: Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle, Derek Pain, Jonathan Davis and The Trader

INCLUDES FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

Nice guys finish last.

Wrong.

John Charcol — winners, Money Marketing's

Best Mortgage IFA 1999.

Best Mortgage IFA 1999.

Source are shadown and properly learners may be required. Order broker fees of up to 1% of the armural borrowed may be charged depending on the lyes of product, along through previous and an Appointed Representatives) any of which you may be connected to on the property in the control of requiremental and mortgage secured on property, incurrence may be required. Order broker fees of up to 1% of the armural borrowed may be charged depending on the lyes of product, along Charcol Throughout through previous and an Appointment Representatives) any of which you may be connected to on the property in the control of requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives. The representatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives. The representatives are requirementatives are requirementatives and or requirementatives are requirementatives.

Why we're all bitten by this bug, like it or not

FIRST it was just the odd down-page column, and it says it is 22 Februstory. Then it started to become a ary 1900. Silly - but not very imregular news item. Now hardly a day passes without some reference, usually in the form of a dire warning. Gradually the threat to the world economy posed by the milagenda. Expect it to rise further in the coming months - indeed by the time the millennium arrives it will be quite a relief to know that soon, whatever the outcome, the story itself will pass into history.

The fact that many computer programs will be unable to recognised the year 2000 and think it is 1900 has been a profound worry for anyone involved in the IT world for the last three or four years. But it has been essentially a technical and financial issue: what needs to be fixed and how much will it cost. Companies and governments have been busy organising themselves to fix their computers, and see that their suppliers and customers were doing the same. But for the rest of us it has been, at best, an amusing quirk and at worst a bore. It bas been hard to believe it matters. For example, someone must have misset the date on the little portable computer on which I am writing this

portant because I am not relying on the computer to tell me the date.

In the last few weeks, though, the tone of the stories has changed. Suddenly it is becoming an ecolennium bug has risen up the news nomic story. Many people now realise that whether or not the bug is the threat it has been cracked up to be, the fact that people are worried about the bug's potential destructive powers will mean that it will have an important impact on the world economy.

Thus banks are stocking up on cash. This may be partly because they fear electronic payments systems might fail but it is much more because they fear people will want a larger-than-usual stock of cash. Fund managers are planning to cut trading in the weeks before and after the millennium in case trading systems go down. Conference organisers are pushing forward conferences to November or back to March just in case air travel is

So even if there were no direct impact - if every computer and every embedded chip in the world functioned perfectly - the bug would still lead to some disruption. What now more than 6 per cent of GDP

omy? Well, in world financial circles perhaps the most alarmist view comes from Dr Ed Yardini, at Deutsche Securities in New York. He has upped his estimate of the chances of there being a "Y2K" global recession to 70 per cent. True, be assumes that there will be serious computer failures and he may or may not be right about this. But be puts the argument in an interesting way by comparing the shock from the millennium bug with the oil shocks of the Seventies. Then we were an energy-driven economy so any break in the supply of energy damaged the world economy. Now we are an information-driven one and we face the threat of a

The parallel is beguiling, but it seems to me that you don't need to accept his argument to believe that be may be correct in his conclusions. He may be right for the wrong reasons. This is because the bug is adding to economic activi-ty ahead of the millennium and will subtract from it afterwards. Spending on IT investment, particularly in the US, has soared in the last three to four years and is

hreak in the supply of information.



HAMISH: MCRAE

The timing of the millennium comes at a bad point in the world economic cycie, when we're facing a tricky transition from inflation to deflation

and more than half of all US capi- ... month before) they will wait and see tal investment. Naturally much of what is what For industries that can that investment would have taken place anyway and is associated with the extraordinary longevity of the American boom.

It is very hard to distinguishwhat spending is fixing problems and what is putting in new systems. to improve productivity. So expect investment in IT to race on after the bug is a long-forgotten problem. But the very dependence on IT systems for the vibrancy of US economic activity is itself a concern if there is doubt about the vulnerability of the systems. And once the great burst of work now going on to fix the bug problem is over, it would be astounding if there were not some sort of pause in spending - if only to assess priorities for the future.

There are therefore likely to be two different types of postmillennial flop. One comes from fear: that through the summer ities (and hence purchases) they think might be affected by the bug. Then for a couple of months after the event (and maybe a

stocknile their output this may not be too much of a problem. For those that cannot, like airlines, the prospect is alarming indeed.

The second type of flop will stem from a swing in the IT investment cycle. The investment cycle has long been recognised as one of the drivers of the more general busicause a much larger proportion on ness cycle, but until recently IT was the nation's wealth is bed up in ness cycle, but until recently IT was not a large portion of investment. We have lots of experience of the disruption impact of other invest- of the millennium comes at a bac ment cycles: airlines buying aircraft in good times, only to have them delivered at just the moment when demand fell, or property companies starting to build office blocks in a boom, only to complete them and have them half-empty in the next slump. But we don't have any experience of an IT investment cycle.

Maybe this will be the first one. To this must be added the possibility of a third type of flop, a fi-nancial market flop. Markets go up and autumn both companies and individuals will stockpile ahead of the event, bringing forward activror scenarios to accept that present valuations, particularly on Wall Street, are stretched. If there is a general "the party's over" feeling

around the millennium, it would be surprising if this were not re flected to some extent in share

There is a precedent of sorts. Ir December 1899 the Dow fell by nearly a quarter. It subsequently re covered - but of course the US econ omy now is more vulnerable & market moves than it was then be

We are a bit unlucky. The timing point in the world economic cycle towards the end of a long boom in America, but before Japan and East Asia has recovered from its most serious post-war slump and when the European economy is performing unevenly. In addition, the world is facing a tricky transition from inflation to deflation.

The oil shock came at a bad time too: a sudden rise in energy prices at just the moment the world was facing an inflationary boom. But just as we could not chose the timing of the first oil shock, we cannot chose the timing of the millennium even if my computer thinks we have prematurely reached the end of the century and gone back to 1900.

DATELINE: HONG KONG

Superman's son asked for a miracle

BY STEVEN VINES

BEING THE youngest son of Li Kashing, Hong Kong's most highprofile tycoon, confers certain advantages in life. Unsurprisingly, it has not done any harm to the burgeoning career of Richard Li Tzarki, 31. He has his father to thank for being given a leg-up in the business world. Now the Hong Kong government is about to hand him the key to the colony in the shape of the job of building its hi-tech future.

Mr Li senior was a master of low tech. He made his first fortune in the Fifties by producing plastic flowers. But he soon discovered there was more money to be bad in redeveloping the factories that make them.

As a property tycoon, Mr Li senior has few equals: local investors call him "superman". When times were had, as they were in the Seventies, he showed how adversity could be turned to profit by embarking on a property-buying spree and emerging with buckets full of cash.

Times are bad again in Hong Koog so it is perhaps not entirely surprising that the government has turned to his youngest son

other miracle. Like the rest of the world, the bureaucrats who run Hong Kong have finally caught up with the idea that high technology is the key to high levels of economic growth. They have come to this realisation rather late in the day but treat it as a truly original thought.

Looking wistfully at Silicon Valley in the US and, more recently, at hitech developments in Israel, the bureaucrats have decided that they want a share of the action and this being Hong Kong, they want it oow.

Mr Li junior has been brought in to develop something called a cyberport, a 858,000 sq ft prime site, described as a port because it nestles close to the shoreline. Wired up with all the latest electronic hardware. the site is planned to house 130 companies, ranging from very large organisations, such as IBM, to small. two-men-and-a-desktop type of companies which are supposed to thrust Hong Kong into the information



Richard Li: Following in his high-profile father's footsteps

age. It will take quite a bit of thrusting because Hong Kong is notori-ously deficient when it comes to developing new technology. In 1996-97 local companies invested a mere £250m on research and development, equivalent to 0.27 per cent of gross auction. domestic product. Japanese companies at this time spent the equivalent of 0.6 per cent.

A survey conducted in 1994 found that a third of Hong Kong companies spent nothing at all on research and development, even this figure might not reflect the whole picture because very small companies were not included in the survey. Surveys do not appear to bave been conducted since then, presumably the last ex-

ercise was too depressing. Moreover, Hong Kong has a severe shortage of people with hightechnology skills, probably oo more than 37,000 who qualify in some way, and bas an immigration policy which makes it hard for qualified

foreigners to join the workforce. However, Sir Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's ever-optimistic Financial Secretary, is confident that the cyberport "will provide quality products to upgrade our current economic activities and enable us to reach out to the limitless cyber

Some £1hn is to be invested in the project and it is expected to create 16,000 jobs with the help of compa-

nies such Hewlett-Packard and the internet-surfing group Yahoo.

But there are aspects of this development which make some people in Hong Kong question whether any of this will really happen. For a start, there is some unease about the government dropping its traditional laissez-faire stance when it comes to the development of new industry. Hong Kong used to pride itself on the government keeping Its oose out of business and letting the market decide which way the economy should

Now the government has decreed that high technology is the direction to take and hacked its faith with an unprecedented gift of this large piece of property to Mr Li junior's Century Pacific Group.

Land is one of Hong Kong's most precious commodities. The government is the sole owner of land and usually releases it by a process of tender or auction. In this instance there was no teoder and no

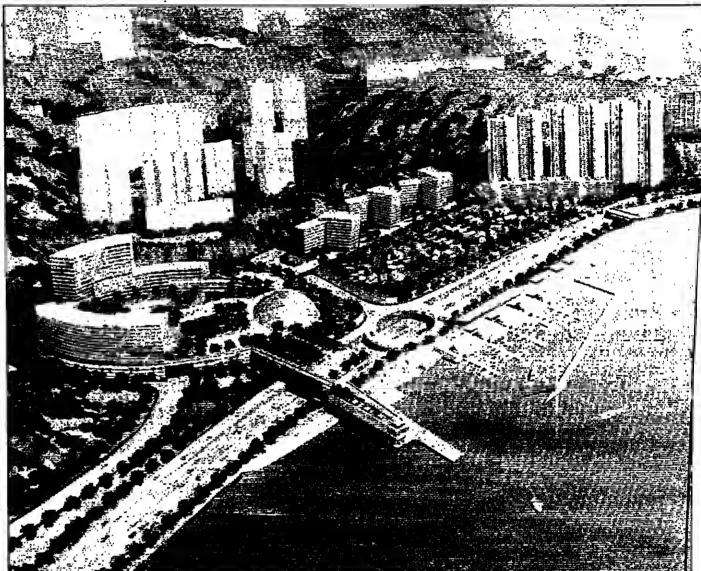
Only Pacific Century was invited to develop the site and it will have to pay only once it starts getting vments from its tenants.

One third of the cyberport project will, in fact, be devoted to a residential property development. The idea being that property rentals will subsidise the other hi-tech

According to the government, it gave the property to Mr Li junior because his company was the only one with the resources and the sophisticated technical knowhow to get the project off the ground.

This claim is being greeted with a degree of scepticism because the part of the Century Pacific Group which has been given the land is a private company whose assets are hidden from the public domain. Its listed arm is in Singapore and contains a hotch-potch of property and insurance company boldings.

The company has no money-making operations which involve information technology but it bas signed a deal with Intel, the USbased semiconductor maker. As it actually got off the ground was an Mr Li senior.



This illustration shows how Hong Kong's cyberport project at Telegraph Bay in the Pokfulam district will look

contract is the most substantial part of the deal. Nevertheless, Mr Li junior talks a lot about new technology and when be set up Pacific Century in 1993, at the age of 26, be declared that it would be a holding company for high-technology investments. The only hi-tech project matters stand, the signature on the esoteric operation employing very

small aperture terminal technology used to provide telecommunicahons links for companies in areas where telecom facilities were poor. After a couple of years, in which not a penny was earned, this company was sold off to the publicly listed Hutchison Whampoa, controlled by

Mr Li junior's company is still

talking about a number of hi-tech projects: it remains to be seen whether any of them will fly. What is sure is that Pacific Century will use the cyberport to build an office block or two and a large number of

No one in Hong Kong seems to remember how Mr Li senior laid the basis for his fortune. He went

developed properties to allow a develop for them and paid theak once he had built gleaming ofifices. Mr Li junior looks as th he is doing exactly the sarlthough be claims to be doingething quite different the government is investing an anti-

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL PRESS



BARRON'S How the debate has shifted from 'ndiether' to 'when' China will devalue its currency

THE SPECULATION has been fuelled by reports that Beijing has formed a special team to study the impact of a possible devaluation of the yuan, and a warning by China's top foreigntrade official that the nation's exports face a very tough, very difficult' year. Capital flight puts further pressure on the yuan. Last summer, we didn't anticipate the magnitude and rapidity of China's economic slide. underscored by skyrocketing unemployment, increasing bankruptcies of state enterprises and banks, and rising violence in economically ravaged rural areas.

- Neil A Mortin



FINANCIAL TIMES As the outlook in Europe deteriates, rates need to full as well as the euro to provide relief for industry

THE BIGGEST obstacle to lower interest rates in the euro-zone bas been politics rather than economics. The ECB has been determined to prove its independence in the face of calls for lower rates from politicans. With the departure of Oskar Lafontaine, the former German finance

minister, this must not continue. The International Monetary Fund last week became the latest international institution to call for lower euro-zone rates. The ECB has proved its independence from policiticans. It must not now demonstrate an indifference to common sense.



THE ECONOMIST Why the US should raise interest rates and return to its policy position of last summer

THE FED cut rates three times last autumn. [But] since September, fears of a credit crunch have dissipated; the Dow has risen some 25 per cent and the US economy has grown even more briskly than predicted.

There is a risk that a rise in rates might trigger a fall on Wall Street, harming not only the US economy. But while the Fed should be raising rates, the European Central Bank should be cutting them, and Japan needs reflation too. For the Fed, doing nothing is riskier still. It is not the central bank's job to prop up an overvalued stockmarket.

BUSINESS WEEK Why resistance to hostile takeovers means Germany risks missing out on the restructuring it needs

SINGLE shareholder frequently holds a majority stake in German companies. Interlocking holdings among banks and insurers is further defence against unwanted intrusion.

It's time for German authorities to give companies more freedom to duke it out until the best wins. Schröder, now Chancellor, could temporarily cut the 50-per-cent-plus capital-gains tax to prod banks to sell

industrial stakes. The take-over code needs to be made mandatory too. German execs know they have to toughen up. Their government should give them a nudge in the right direction. - Jack Ewing, Frankfurt bureau – Editorial

FINANCIAL NEWS

FINANCIAL NEWS On the real problem with the Stock Exchange's new electronic order book

ONE OF the biggest problems with Sets is that old-fashioned fund managers are still so wedded to the idea of instant execution. Time and again they deal with brokers on a risk basis, instead of putting business through the order book, because they cannot resist what appears to be an attractive bid from the broker. What the fund managers need to remember is that if brokers are bidding them for stock, it is because they know they can make money on it. Marketmaking firms that struggled to make a decent return under the old trading system are making hay under Sets.

lewsweek

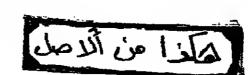
NEWSWEEK On the new Dow Generation, which believes that God created stocks in order to make them rich

AMONG HOUSEHOLDS a record 44 per cent now own stocks. Yet they've been taking some money out. Last year, individuals sold a net \$500bn of the equaties they hold directly. Net purchases by mutual funds fell 14 per cent. So why is the Dow still going up? Partly, it's the result of a net decline in the supply of stocks. Things like mergers and buybacks shrank the market by \$178bn last year. Speculation is helping, too. As a percentage of personal income, money borrowed from brokers to buy stock has never been so high. And you can't rule out the Dow-Gen's buil. It's their special mark. – Jane Bryant Quinn

FORTUNE On how US politicans ensi principles of free trade lose of the practice of protectioni

THE THEORY is that Brazil and Russia are 'dumping' steel ing below the cost of productio US markets. Taken as a whole, 1 icy conveys a strange mess Americans should happily sen dollars to ailing economies, b should object if they send us st return. This defies all logic.

Policymakers would do eve a favour if the they heeded the o gan: "trade, not aid." An open tr system is one of the surest wa promote growth around the Sadly, current American poli getting things exactly backwar - N Gregory Mo



it or not

Pierre Lescure undoubtedly matches Rupert Murdoch with the extent of his ambition, which is to make French TV company Canal Plus a 'major' in the Hollywood sense of the word

Sino

Canal + Murdoch = war

duct change in Rupert Murdoch's apicu when he came to France in Janugpropose a merger of his British Sky casting with Canal Plus. "He was the s think about it," says Lescure, who English with a fair dose of Maurice ager. The 53-year-old former TV proicund presenter who has run Canal

The English with a fair dose of Maurice there. The 53-year-old former TV prodicind presenter, who has run Canal spect, smiles, "Before January, Rupert Main always talked about coming to the Count and taking the wheel. This is the fastic that he talked about offering a stak one of his jewels [in return]."

WAY Pierre Lescure tells it, there was

Bis with all of Murdoch's attempts so is obtain a footbold in Continental Furns fast growing pay-TV market, it was to be.

Moch's proposal to merge News Corrito per cent-controlled "jewel" BSkyvith Canal Plus foundered on a numbfissues. There were the screams of put from French politicians worried about nvasion of cheap imported programs on French TV screens. Murdochrutspoken anti-European views and impatience with government regulation any form also grated with the Left-colled French government. Murdoch ' have wanted Paris but Paris didn't to want him.

For part, Lescure set some tough condits on a Canal-Sky merger too, notably the new company would be under Frenchtrol. The merger would have cost Moch dearly. Besides ceding management tool, there were tax issues involveder just three meetings, the deal was out the fact that it was Murdoch mockon Canal's door says volumes about strong the French pay-TV company become.

"Twars ago we were a little afraid of Muh," confided a senior Canal Plus execu: "Now we are a force. We control Lillion subscriptions. Murdoch doesnare us anymore."

Tasropean pay-TV market is set to grow habout 55 million subscribers at the en1998 to about 97 million by 2006, accord to figures from Baskerville Countations. And with digital technology business is about more than just TV inctive services from weather to Interpretess are part of the pay-TV picture, 1003 there will be 29 million digital set boxes in Europe with a built-in modescoording to consultancy Datamonth.

Much runs a global media empire, and in UK BSkyB has a virtual stranglehol pay TV, but across the Channel, Mund is notable for his absence. Not that lasn't been trying. But his frontal assaum Germany and Italy have so far vieladitle.

Mobile, Canal Plus boasts pay-TV operus in 11 European countries, and north Africa. After three years of heavy costsiaunch digital services, 1999 will see Ol break even on its French digital bess and return to 1996 pre-digital cashw levels of an estimated 4bn Frediancs (£420m):

BY KATE BULKLEY

t looked like a dream deal for Rupert Murdoch. Hitch Sky to Canal Plus and corner the European market in pay TV. But he reckoned without the ambition of the French TV mogul Pierre Lescure...

In the grand European plan, Lescure's only gap is in Germany, but even there Canal sells some of its thematic channels on the extensive cable network and holds a minority stake alongside Murdoch in VOX. Murdoch has said he could turn VOX into a pay-ITV platform, but bitle has actually been done.

For the time being the powerful Kirch Group holds the upper hand in German pay TV. The ageing but very wily Leo Kirch is negotiating to take full control of the pay-TV operator Premiere from its partner, but erstwhile rival, the channel Bertelsmann. Bertelsmann, which also publishes newspapers and magazines and owns publishers Random House, seems to be pursuing an alternative strategy, moving quickly into online ventures with AOL, Barnes and Noble, and Lycos. It wants to keep its extensive free-TV business, which runs the RTL stable of channels, but may be pre-pared to surrender Premiere. Gaining control of Premiere will give Kirch the distinction of ruling Germany's pay-TV mar-ket which, contrary to its free-TV business, is under-developed.

Over the years, Murdoch and Canal Plus have both tried to gain pay-TV footholds in Germany. But the huge number of free TV channels, plus local and European regulations that have limited the ability of the German players, namely Bertelsmann, Deutsche Telekom and Kirch, to work together, has made pay TV expensive to operate and has limited its growth.

Earlier this month Kirch reorganised and created stronger ties with Mediaset.

the TV and advertising arm of Silvio Beriusconi's Fininvest. However, the new DM11bn (£3.8bn) company which counts Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal as an investor, does not include Kirch's loss-making digital pay-TV business DF1, nor its stake in Premiere. So some observers see Kirch looking for partners in pay TV.

Lescure's comment on Germany is that he hopes Kirch can revive DF1 so Canal Plus can sell him their thematic

Locked out of Germany at least for the time being. Murdoch earlier this year made a run at Italy. In a thinly veiled attempt to look more European, he hired the former head of the Italian state broadcaster, Letizia Moratti, and announced a deal with Telecom Italia to develop its fiedgling pay-TV business, which was suffering against its rival, Tele+, which is controlled by Canal Plus.

As it turned out, the deal with Telecom Italia was more Murdoch bravado than substance. Italian politicians, wary of allowing Italian TV to fall into foreign hands, also moved quickly. A new cap on the number of football games a pay-TV operator can control was put into place, leaving Murdoch little ammunition against the dominant player Tele+. Shortly after this flasco, Murdoch came calling in Paris,

Lescure undoubtedly matches Murdoch with the extent of his ambition. Each controls a different end of the spectrum – Lescure has Europe, not the world, while for Murdoch the situation is reversed. Canal Plus is a big name in France, but Lescure

wants to be taken seriously by the Englishspeaking world. When he was first invited
to the Allen & Co annual gathering of the
world's media élite at Sun Valley, where the
likes of Barry Diller, John Malone, Jeffrey
Katzenberg and Murdoch himself rub
shoulders, Lescure was thrilled. One senior
TV executive who knows him well says:
"Pierre loves all that." For Lescure, the man
who once dated French film icon Catherine Deneuve and counts Gerard Depardien
as a good friend, Sun Valley is access to the

Anglo-Saxon world.

Canal Plus is fast developing outside of France, where nearly half of its subscription base now lies (see chart). Its core channel, called Canal+, has been up and running since November 1984 and mixes exclusive sports, movies and entertain-ment, much of it locally produced. The company holds exclusive pay rights to French football league games until 2001. Under its government licence, Canal Plus puts 20 per cent of its revenues into acquiring film rights, and has traditionally invested in 90 per cent of the films made in France. The company also has invested in 30 different thematic channels, from a documentary channel, Planete, to a 1950s US cult TV channel, Jimmy, named after James Dean and Jimmy Hendrix. Twenty-two of these channels have been developed with the former international arm of Tele-Communications Inc (TCI). Canal also owns about a third of Eurosport, Many of the Canal channels are localised and exported to the

company's non-French services. Canal Plus was quicker to introduce dig-

ital television than Sky. Partly this was due to competitive pressure in France from a rival service called TPS, controlled by TF1. Since launching its CanalSatellite digital service in April 1996 Canal Plus has signed up 1.2 million subscribers in France. TPS counts about 610,000 subscribers. But Canal Plus's roots - and for the time being its profits - are in its flagship terrestrial service. Today 75 per cent of its 4.5 million French subscribers pay 179FF (£19) a month to receive just the one-channel service. In other European countries, Canal Plus has tried to replicate the French model, with varying degrees of success. But all of its non-French operations are set to break even over the next three years (see chart).

In Spain, with publishing powerhouse the Prisa Group, Canal Plus has had a rough time juggling shifting government rules that form the background to on-again, off-again merger talks with its rival, Via Digital, controlled by the former state-owned teleconderator Telefonica.

Early in 1997 Canal Plus achieved a real coup by acquiring its biggest pay-TV competitor NetHold – owners of the FilmNet film channel – from the luxury goods company Richemont. Although some said the price tag was high, the deal extended Canal's presence in several key markets, namely Scandinavia and the Benelux countries, and gave Canal a minority stake in Tele+.

That same year Canal Plus also did a little horse trading with Kirch, selling Kirch its stake in Premiere, and buying

Pierre Lescure:

October 1982 news director

Born July 1945

Antenna 2

Kirch's 45 per cent stake in Tele+, thereby giving it control of the Italian pay-TV operator.

Last year Vivendi, the water-to-media group formerly known as Compagnie Generale des Eaux, took direct control of Canal Plus when it increased its stake in the advertising group Havas, which has a large stake in Canal Plus. At the time observers wondered if Lescure's powers would be undermined by Vivendi's aggressive and driven CEO, Jean-Marie Messier.

However, when Lescure perceived a threat to CanalSatellite, which Canal Plus owns with partners. French producer Pathe and US giant Time Warner, Messier was quick to pitch in. When Canal Plus's rival TF1 began purchasing shares in Pathe, Lescure and Vivendi stepped in, buying nearly 30 per cent of Pathe's shares. TF1 maintains it was only making a friendly alliance with Pathe, but it also controls TPS, CanalSatellite's rival Lescure was not about to have his rival so close to "the heart" of CanalSatellite.

Before taking the top job at Canal Plus, Lescure was the programming director. His ambition is to make Canal Plus a "major" in the Hollywood sense of the word. His first experience with the Hollywood set cost Canal Plus more than \$25m (£15m) as his partners, Carolco, crashed and burned in the mid-1990s through budget mismanagement. It was an expensive lesson. Lescure'a 17 per cent shareholding in that deal gave him no voice and nowadays it is an equal partnership or nothing.

That is the structure of the year-old movie deal he has with Warner Brothers, the first fruit of which – a film called Message in a Bottle starring Kevin Costner – opens in Europe this summer.

Lescure says that all the elements are in position to build a full-scale global company. His power in France in particular, and Europe in general, may be providing the foundation, but it is also holding him back.

"All we need to decide is the architecture of the house," says Lescure. But if he wants a room with a view of the whole world, then France's most powerful TV mogul will have to put all his focus into projects outside his homeland, especially in North America. Canal Plus has had some success selling its pay-TV technology into the US market, but programming is Lescure's probable best building block to the English-speaking world. Recently Lescure decided to group together his production, TV rights and distribution assets into a re-vamped company called Canal Plus Images, which will float on the market in the next 18 months.

But although great programming is the way forward for Lescure's global ambition, it will be his political skills which will be tested. The Australian-born Murdoch started off as just as much an outsider in America, and eventually had to become a legal US citizen to dodge US media laws. Pierre Lescure could never be so obvious (his countrymen would souffle him), but somehow or other, he'll find the appropriate key to open the New World door.

HE COUP THAT GAVE CANAL PLUS TO M LESCURE

THE STORY goes that Pierre Lescure, who was working as a news director at public station Antenna 2, took barely five minutes to accept the post of programme director at the newly founded Canal Plus. The request came in late 1983 from Canal Plus founder André Rousselet, then a top executive at Havas, who had a vision and the right political connections (he was a golfing buddy of former French President François Mitterand) to get a license to run a channel to con-

THE STORY goes that Pierre pete against France's three gov-Lescure, who was working as a erument-owned channels. news director at public station An-

Rousselet wanted to set up an HBO-like pay TV movie channel but French law prevents airing movies on Friday and Saturday nights, to protect French cinema. So Lescure mixed movies with live sports coverage, documentaries and missical events. He also spearheaded the development of home grown programming, from cartoons made by Canal's own studios to the popular Les Guignols, a satirical look at society and

politics that uses sophisticated puppets to poke fun at everyone from French politicians to the heads of Canal Plus's rivals. Lescure himself has a puppet. When the company acquired Nethold, Les Guignols ram a sketch with Lescure describing Canal's "sumple" structure, he kept climbing higher and higher—on to his desk, up an elevator—to add pieces to the organisational chart, until finally he was floating in a space-ship saying: "See, it's all very

Lescure became COO of Canal Plus in 1986. By late 1993 and early 1994 Rousselet was fighting with his main shareholder Havas over a consolidation of its stake with another shareholder Compagnie Générale des Eanx.

was part of the first steps toward creating the multi-media group now called Vivendi, but Rousselet felt that his power at Canal was being stripped away.

Rousselet resigned and Lescure was named CEO in February 1994.

rer a consolidation of its stake
ith another shareholder Comagnie Générale des Eaux.
It was part of the first steps to-

CEO Canal Plus
Lescure is president of the
Paris St-Germain football
club (in which Canal Plus
owns a stake) and he is chairman of Canal Plus's film subsidiary Studio Canal

Theorists should admit they make mistakes

IT IS a sign of either greater wis-dom or the woolliness of thought ing terrible dislocation and hardthat comes with age and mother-ship. There are few parts of the hood, but it seems to me that the world outside the club of advanced most frightening people are those who are sure they are right. Far periencing turbulence from the less damage is caused by the tentative folks who are prepared to admit they might be mistaken, and that goes for economic policy as much as anything else.

There has been a series of spectacular demonstrations in recent years of the damage inflicted by excess certainty on the world economy. Most of them have involved developing countries which have fallen victim to one theory or another about how economies progress. The transition economies of Eastern Europe and Russia were hammered by the extreme free market ideology of the Thatcher and Reagan era, and the notion that markets were the one and only key to development also carried over to East Asia.

It must be pretty obvious to even the most hardened ideologue by now that markets are not enough. Russia is in turmoil. In Asia, some countries, such as South Korea, seem on the way to recovery, but know enough about reality he-permeate everyday economics.

post-industrial economies not ex-

wash of the global financial crisis.

In circumstances like these,

economic historians come into one eminent historian, Douglass North, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs (the IEA was one of the pioneers of that damaging free-market extremism), makes an eloquent case for being modest about what we can achieve in terms of economic development. Professor North writes: "Economic history is an endless depressing tale of miscalculation

the disappearance of whole civili-. sations." The spectacular growth of the Western world in the past four or five centuries is, be argues, an aberration. He suggests there are three

ways we normally get things

stagnation and decline, and indeed

complex. A second is being misled by a particular belief system or ideology, which means we will twist evidence to what we think ought to be true. The third, and most interesting in the context of the recent upheaval in emerging and transition economies, is having their own. A new pamphlet by scant understanding of the role played by institutional structures

and politics in economic growth.

Clearly, one of the explanations for the differing abilities of countries to cope with the financial crisis has been their differing institutional frameworks. It has become part of the new conventional wisdom to say that strong banking systems, an incorrupt civil service, the application of the rule of law, leading to famine, starvation, decit and warfare, death, economic economic development. This has also been emphasised in the work of many outstanding academic economists over the years, including Amartya Sen, last year's winner of the Nobel Prize in economics. But it is true to say it has been overlooked by many professional economists in the recent wrong. One is never being able to past and is only now starting to



DIANE COYLE

Look at the damage inflicted by excess of certainty - it must be obvious to even the most hardened ideologue that free markets alone are not enough

Professor North spells out advanced or just the developing here what ought to have been economies. A book published this blindingly obvious all along - and week Global Transformations by technology industries. This is an was to many non-professionals. David Held and others, is an im-"Any market that is going to work pressive and comprehensive synwell is structured; it is struc- thesis of recent political and tured by deliberate efforts to economic changes. We need a lot make the players compete by more of this sort of insight.

structure the game in such a way as to minimise violence and different structures at different times, because circumstances example, turning what was once a natural monopoly into a potentially competitive market.

The conventional elements of the recipe for growth are more people, more physical capital - and a better quality of both - and technical progress. The missing ingredient is the right institutional structure. Some of the gaps in our understanding are starting to be filled by research on globalisation. For the first time there is a lot of comparative work covering the whole planet, not just the other? Similarly, the US has a Perruton (Polity Press)

price and quality rather than . It is not just a matter of pre-compete by killing each other." venting Western academics venting Western academics The job of government is to wreaking unintended havoc on developing countries, although there is clearly a need for intelpoverty and maximise economic lectual modesty here. Insight into gains. This will require radically institutions and politics also matters for our understanding of our own economies and how their perrecent speech Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury to war with each other. It's a funny

line, but makes a serious point. To get even more parochial, there is an institutional and political chasm between Anglo-Saxon The US has low unemployment, Europe high levels. Wage struc-

start-ups and dominates the highaspect of the American economy that Gordon Brown would like to import to the UK. The Budget contained a few modest tax incentives, but we actually know very little about what it is in America that fosters entrepreneurship and an

aptitude for computers. The best of Britain's economics profession, gathering in Nottingham this week for the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society, appears to have been smitten with uncertainty comchange-technology moves on, for formance might be improved. In a pared with years past. The research being presented is heavily weighted towards the empirical Secretary, noted that no two coun- and the institutional. Perhaps tries with a McDonald's had gone we will start getting some answers now that the fact there is a question has been acknowledged.

> d.coyle@independent.co.uk Understanding the Process of and Continental labour markets. Economic Change', by Douglass North (IEA 0171-799 3745) 'Global Transformations', by tures and benefit systems differ David Held, Anthony McGrew, widely Is one model better than the David Goldblatt and Jonathan

FOCUS

Will the Internet frenzy ever die?

HISTORY IS not a popular topic on the stock market or with Internet entrepreneurs. But the frantic pace of activity among new Internet stocks raises some questions about how far the past is a guide to future market performance in one of the most fast-developing areas of investment.

At the end of last year, it looked as if the market for initial public offerings (IPOs) of Internet companies had died under the weight of supply and concerns about the hroader market place. In the past few months it has exploded again, and the flow of new IPOs in the coming weeks looks almost unstoppable, raising questions about whether history will repeat itself.

The IPO market as a whole had a hair-curling ride last year, culmi- it stood at \$241.25, up 1,240 per cent. nating with Stephen Paternot and Todd Krizelman making Wall Street by venture capital firms, which history when their Internet poured a record \$12bn loto new comcompany, theglobe.com, surged to a record premium on the first day's trading. The huge volume of public offerings in the first half of the year then dried up as oversupply, turmoil formance in the after-market hit demand. In the first quarter of 1998 there were 65 deals raising \$5.5bn (£3.3hn) in equity, according to Renaissance Capital's IPO Intelligence Online, rising to 104 deals and \$15bn in the second quarter. The third and fourth quarters combined saw only 78 deals, raising \$24hn.

But the IPO market has taken off

By Andrew Marshall

hitting the market. Most - and certainly the most lucrative for the investors - are Internet-related. In February 1998 there were 46 IPOs of which two were Internet-based, according to IPO Reporter newsletter. In February 1999, there were 36, of which 10 were Internet-related. and by the end of February, 28 new Internet companies had filed notice of plans for offerings.

The stock which ended the IPO doldrums was eBay, the online auctioneer, which is one of the few Internet companies to actually make a profit. Its target price last September was \$18 a share and it ended the first day at \$47; by December 31

The Internet frenzy is being fed panies last year, according to Ventureone, a San Francisco research firm. Although the number of deals the end of the year, Internet startups ounted for about a third of venture-capital backed IPOs, compared to 12 per cent the year before. In the third quarter of last year, mergers and acquisitions heavily outpaced IPOs, as larger technology companies bought out Internet startups, hut now the direction of movement is back towards public offerings. The results – for investors, venture capitalists and the companies con-

These deals have shown some extraordinary performers, such as iVillage, a women's network. The company doubled the expected starting price range before it launched, and even then the stock ended its first day up more than 230 per cent. It sold a 16 per cent stake to raise \$87.6m.

MiningCo.com, an Internet search service, earlier this month raised its expected share price from \$12-\$14 to \$23-\$25, an indication of the scale of the demand. It priced at \$25 last week, and started trading at \$55.

Most Internet stocks have débuted up more than 100 per cent on their first day, and the trend is for the price range to be doubled before launch, Priceline.com, which sells financial and travel services, became the latest on Friday last week, raising its price range to between \$12 and \$14 from \$7 and \$9.

There have been plenty of stocks in there for eager investors: Cheap Tickets, a Hawaii-based airline tickplunged as the market collapsed at · et re-seller, Market Watch.com, a financial information site, and many their appearance in coming weeks include some established companies floating off the Internet-related arms of their husiness, attracted by the growing frenzy. Barnes and Noble, the large US bookseller, and Bertelsman, the German media company, are to offer shares in their online joint venture, Barnesandnohle.com, and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette Securities is floating part in the retail market at the starting



Stephen Paternot and Todd Krizelman saw their firm the globe.com surge to a record premium on its first day's trading Neville 🖾

of its DLJ direct online trading ser- price would have lost money on IPOs around \$2.5bn. It is emblematic of may be losing momentum: vice. One of the latest to file is taken as a whole last year Most of topjobs.net pic, a British-based re- the gains - and most of the demand cruitment advertising company.

The apparent attractions of these tutional investors. stocks for individual investors have helped keep interest at fever pitch, especially amongst the day traders who devote their lives to the market. The dozen or so Internet offerings that have already priced this year have risen an average of 200 per cent from their offering prices. But it is worth pointing out that there are plenty of risks as well. Few individual investors were in for the kill on the first day. Investors who bought

now - comes from the large insti-

The IPO market is almost completely absorbed with Internet questions about the market's broader strength. Other IPOs like the management recruitment firm Korn/Ferry, or the fruit company Del Monte, have performed much less impressively. Eleven deals are set to come to market this week; but five are held over from last week. Pep-

sico's Peosi Bottling Group is among

them, and it is planning to raise

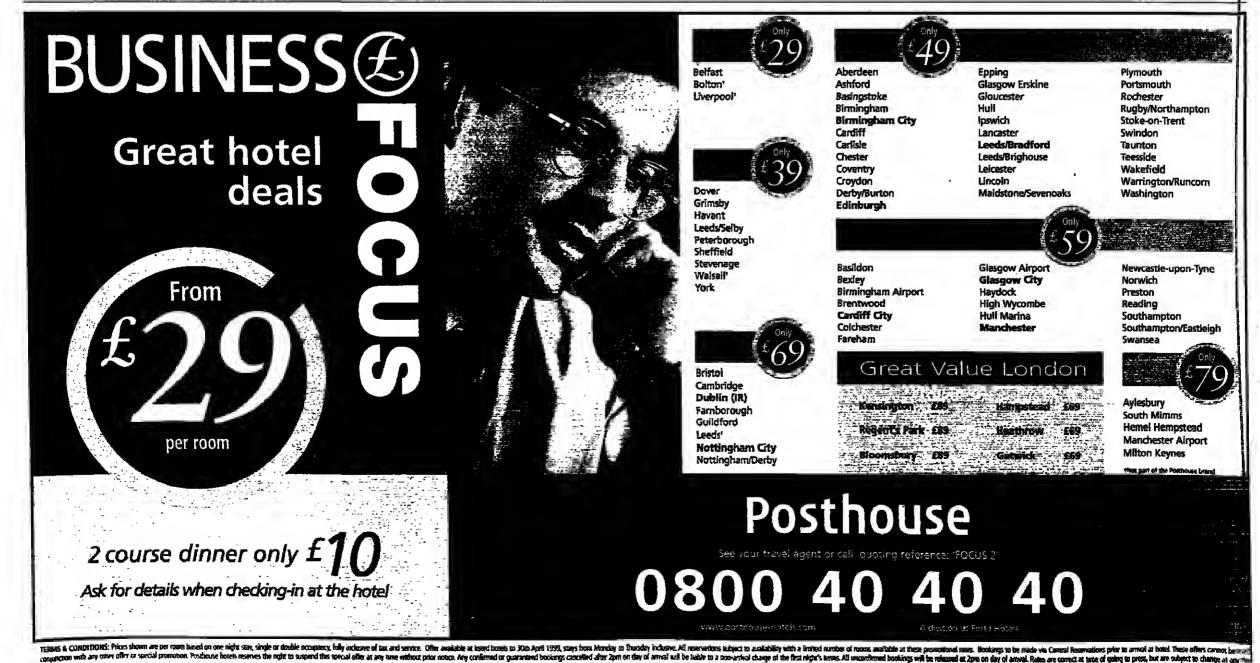
the market's problems that it may go with less than a bang. Of seven IPOs last week, five - all Internetrelated - soared; the other two (Ducati Motor Holdings and Delta Galil Industries) hit trouble

The attractions are clear when the

deal works. The venture capitalists get a huge return on their investment; the institutions which buy the stocks make a fast killing, and the individual investors who take on the stocks bave a reasonable expectation of stunning gains. When Broadcast.com goes up 250 per cent in its first day, everybody is happy; but not every stock follows that pattern. The boom

though the figures for last launches look spectacular, the down from average gains of than 200 per cent earlier in the

Hanging over the market is That was in part the result of oversupply, coming at a time demand was sloping off and our was rising about the rest world Non-Internet IPOs ready having to postpone dur there are more than enough net deals in the pipeline this y make for a busy calendar: the tion is whether there is the



A See Low Miles of Marie Land

rofits are rocketing and dividends are rising. But shares are plummeting and it's just fallen out of the FTSE 100. So is Greg Hutchings' Tomkins just a fashion victim - or are there fundamental flaws with a company that makes everything from Hovis bread and Mr Kipling cakes to Hayter lawnmowers and Smith & Wesson guns?

The outsider

BY TERRY WILKINSON

ONE could blame Greg Hutchthe £1m-plus-a-year chairman mkins, for the occasional bout

Hutchings cringes at the s to guns" tag that Tomkins has landed with because of its ownip of Mother's Pride on the one and Smith & Wesson on the But he is even more exased at the lack of appreciation n by the City.

has a point. The financial record of Tomkins has been st unrivalled since he joined in Profits at what began life as a Midlands maker of fasteners backles have grown from £1.6m 83 to an expected £500m this Employees have soared from o over 60,000 and dividends to holders have grown at a comnd rate of 15 per cent.

nd yet, Tomkins' share price has put through the mangle. In the 12 months the shares have thly halved back to levels seen ears ago, and Greg Hutchings' and joy has been removed the FTSE 100 index.

Thy is Tomkins so unloved? its growth this year will be less in previous years and the k market is expecting only a Il increase in profits for the year ay -, to a little over £500m - alugh dividend growth is expecto be a solid 14 per cent again. ut that is not the reason for nkins' near demise. Partly it is estion of stock market fashion. et all the conglomerates that gated the market in the Eightve gone, Some, such as Hanve broken themselves up. Or, thams, they have re-inventselves – in Williams' case as otection and security com-TR has been swallowed up, an effective break-up, by Even GEC, which once our companies as avidly as its

I Tind the moment when Total began to lose its fan club, one it go back seven years to its acquon of the Rank Hovis Mc-Doughread, cakes and grocery groutHM). The market never liked £970m deal and it has ourished company's share price

1.18

75.4

· ~ 200

100

ever se.

"Intors these days are looking for inseed focus. Tomkins is really that of the great diversified conglerates," says Andy Chambers of Securities.

They fashion has not passed Tomkby, Since 1997 it has sold more 1 20 businesses and tried to perde investors that it is "focused three core areas: construct components, food manufring and industrial and autome engineering.

In Duber, the company finally manago escape from the leper-



Greg Hutchings, Tomkins' chairman, is exasperated by the City's scepticism in the face of his empire's financial track record

like diversified industrials sector of a flood of negative judgements. the stock market and was re-classified as an engineer. Little good it has done them.

Smith & Wesson's smoking gun. Product liability lawyers in the US have been limbering up for action. In a case in New York, which ended in February, a jury said that Smith & Wesson was not negligent in the way it distributed its guns, although some other gun manufacturers were. Out of seven cases against gun makers, only one has resulted in damages - of around \$500,000 - hut municipal suits are pending in New Orleans, Atlanta and Chicago.

Smith & Wesson accounts for less than 1 per cent of Tomkins' profits but a jumpy stock market may fear

Tomkins' longest-established, but in the UK probably least wellknown, business is its £1.2bn con-There is also the problem of struction components division, located entirely in the US. It now takes in grilles, air conditioning louvres,baths, showers and acrylic

> plumbing products and wheels for recreational vehicles. Doubts that there is any synergy between such a disparate clutch of activities are countered by Tomkins' assertion that a large number of these products all end up on, for example, US recreational vehicles, so it is a one-stop shop for customers in this growth market. RHM is clearly a major player for

Tomkins. It is the UK's largest flour

whiripools, together with PVC

miller with a 28-per-cent market share, bolstered by the addition of two mills from Dalgety last year Despite a relentless series of "Bread Wars" waged by the major supermarket groups, it has got behind its Hovis brand, which is the UK market leader lifting sales by 50 per cent in the past five years.

Through Mr Kipling, Cadbury's Cakes and Lyon's Cakes it holds the top three brands with over 20 per cent of the fibn-a-year UK cake market. Plus, RHM is a hrand leader in groceries.

Tomkins has also been visibly flexing its manufacturing muscles. Since 1992 it has lopped 26 per cent off the head-count in milling and baking and cut its unit-operating costs by 13 per cent. Its reward has been a 60 per-cent-rise in profits since 1994 in food manufacturing to £160m, and a fattening-up of profit margins to 9 per cent.

Successful marketing campaigns have rejuvenated Tomkins' traditional hrands from time to time in the UK, but the option of turning, say, Mother's Pride or Mr Kipling into global brands is not realistic. So Tomkins' food operations have also been hitching their wagons to the growth areas of the food market and expanding their overseas baking activities in France and Belgium

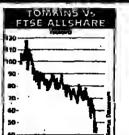
Long-standing relationships with Marks & Spencer in cakes and now chilled foods have been strengthened to include Whitbread. Fast foods have also given Tornkins an indirect presence outside the UK as

a sole supplier of dough bases to Pizza Hut in the UK and Europe. And, with the purchase of Gold-en West Foods last year, the company has become the top UK supplier of buns, drinks, sauces and distribution services to Mc-Donald's Restaurants in the UK and

mainland Europe. Until 1996, few would have regarded Tomkins as a serious engineer. It has since built up a £1.6bn industrial and automotive and engineering arm to match its food manufacturing operations.

The process began in 1996 with the watershed acquisition of Gates, a global, US-based supplier of automotive and industrial transmission belts, hoses and connectors. The following year Tomkins paid





Chairman: Greg Hutchings Employees: 65,000 1998 pre-tax profit: £500m Market capitalisation: £3,25m Activities: Engineering 33%; food 33%; components 28%; professional, garden and leisure 5% Consumer brands: Hovis, Mother's Pride, Lyon's Cakes, Sharwoods, Smith & Wesson Major acquisitions: Phillips Industries, Rank Hovis McDougall, Gates, Stant

£360m for Stant, a supplier of windshield wipers and fuel tank filler caps, and in 1998 it topped up its automotive portfolio with the £155m acquisition of Schrader-Bridgeport, which makes fluid controls.

Tomkins' US engineering companies all have substantial shares of their chosen markets, and the product ranges of Stant and Schrader-Bridgeport can be fed into Gates' well-established global network to supplier automotive makers around the world.

Down the road there are further opportunities to consolidate the automotive component supplier base and improve profits. The problem for investors is that this gives Tomkins a schizophrenic image. It is hard to believe that fund managers have views about the relative attractiveness of food manufacturing and automotive components - let alone whirlpool baths - that coincide exactly with those of Tomkins.

they would prefer to invest separately in major suppliers and adjust their holdings in each one as market prospects changed.

There's not that choice with Tomkins. "We believe that the offer to buy back shares is a recognition by the company that the option of continuing to operate Tomkins as before has run out," says Arend Dikkers of Salomon Smith Barney.

In other words, Tomkins is under pressure to decide whether it is an engineer, a food manufacturer or a maker of whirlpool baths. With a market worth less than

two-thirds of the level of its £5bn sales base, and healthy profit margins, there is a chance that others may make the decision for Tomkins since, despite the Smith & Wesson factor, the huge cash flows from RHM could entice buy-out or break-

THE PLAYER: PHILIP SWINSTEAD, CHAIRMAN OF PARITY

We want to lead the world in e-commerce

silver Asviartin DB5 convertible. Hobbieslude collecting classic cars and fing his vineyard in the South ofnce. A keen sportsman, he enjoyaying cricket, golf and king Fived OBE for his contributionhe UK software industry. Totalary/fees in 1997 of

CHALLGE: To repeat the success of past five years during which Pr's market capitalisation

PERSOL DETAILS: Aged 56. has grown from £2m to around £300m. Mr Swinstead says compasiver AsMartin DB5 convertible. has grown from £2m to around £300m. Mr Swinstead says companies "always have to have a vision." He predicts that electronic commerce will be a major boom sector "We are throwing our hat into the e-commerce ring" he says, and forecasts Parity "will be one of the leaders in the western world."

> Mr Swinstead has been described by industry insiders as "the great guru of the IT services sector". He has extensive knowledge of the sector

garnered from his 40 years in the industry. He led the management huy-in to create Parity in 1993. He had founded and run SD-Scicon for 22 years, turning it into one of Europe's largest software services companies. It was sold in 1991 to EDS, part of General Motors.

STRATEGY: When Parity was cre-CORPORATE BACKGROUND: ated five years ago its clear strategy was to create a significant IT business with two arms: international IT solutions and a high quality IT staff agency in the UK. This



was achieved in 1998 with the two divisions producing combined revenues of £290m. Mr Swinstead says Y2K issues and the impact of the euro are "not major factors". He is confident western air traffic control and nuclear systems will not fail as a result of the date change. He anticinates problems with some accounting, billing and City systems. Parity is back on the acquisition trail after a quiet year in 1998. Three businesses purchased in the previous year were successfully integrated into the group. "We have a very clear

idea about who we want to be", he possible acquisition opportunities. says. He would like to broaden Parity's geographic coverage in the US, outside its base in New York. There is also thought to be scope to acquire some niche businesses in Continental Europe in areas such as training and consultancy.

MANAGEMENT STYLE: Relaxed. team effort, says Mr Swinstead, who spends much of his time on who spends much of his time on strategy, assessing the future direction of the company and any Mr Swinstead is highly regarded.

MOST ADMIRES IN BUSINESS: Philip Hughes and his Logica companies Mr Swinstead rates highly include Admiral and Druid.

CITY VERDICT: Parity does not enjoy the lofty ratings seen by larg-The management of the group is a er computer software companies such as Logica. This reflects the

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THE CANARY

Welcome to London: Tony Blair himself is expected to greet delegates to the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development which throws its annual hash in London next week. Doubtless he will be too polite to mention the bank's massive losses in Russia. The bank is refusing to disclose the condition of its loan book, describing the matter as "secret".

Sell the euro: In January, it seemed every analyst in town was telling us to fill our boots with euros. Since then it has been all one way in the wrong direction: German politicians demand interest rate cuts: sell the euro. War in the Balkans: sell the euro. Now the prospect of an interest rate cut in Euroland has provoked the standard reaction: sell the euro. Where are all the geniuses who were telling us in January to buy the euro? Crafting more drivel, no doubt.

Life is a cabaret: Paris rocked as JP Morgan threw a splendid party at the Musée des Arts Forains to honour those attending the Inter-American Development Bank annual meeting. There were expensive cigars, clowns and even a carousel. Could this he a sign that the party's back on for emerging markets? One cynicwasn't so sure: "It's hard to tell which are the clowns and which are the bankers," he said.

Online bankers: The Introduction of e-mail at Coutts allows customers to send provocative messages to their managers. One customer, in-

furiated by reports that the bank had extended a £4m overdraft to the Queen Mother (right), re-

comeuppance, however, when an e-mail whistled back Insisting that there was "no truth at all" to the recent stories.

Licence to print money: Whoever said it was impossihie to make money on the internet? British physicist Laurence Godfrey has so far filed info highway libel actions against companies and individuals in the Australia, Cana-Zealand and his winnings are mounting. Now he has managed to persuade Mr Justice Morland to allow him to proceed against Demon Internet. which carried an allegedly libellous posting on an ob-scure Internet news group. falsely purporting to be from Godfrey himself. Upstanding though Godfrey certainly is, the decision opens the possibility for potential litigants to anonymously libel themselves. and then to turn around and sue every Internet service provider within reach of a writ.

conory@excite.co.uk

Who is the biggest noise in the music industry?

Paul Conrov President.

Virgin Records, UK IF I had to pick out one individual who works for the entire industry, it would have to be John Deacon, the director-general of the BPL He's always working for the overall good of every company. He's oot in the most glamorous end of the business, hut does his job with style and

John has achieved an enormous amount over the years, in particular his work with the Government. But the record industry has many talented people. I really admire the Artist & Repertoire people who discover and make records and am extremely lucky to have two such individuals within the Virgin organisation in Ashley Newton and David Boyd.

Richard Griffiths

BMG Entertainment

International, UK and Ireland The music industry is becoming increasingly more competitive as a business. These days to be an outstanding leader in music, you not only have to have the ability to spot talent, and develop and manage the artists you sign, but you also need to be a savvy business person, EMPs Ken Berry is someone I admire for his ability to combine a charismatic and personal touch with his artists with a keenly astute business sense.

He's a 'babyfaced killer' negotiator, and someone who is willing to put his neck on the line for something he believes in. Two of his best moves in the last few years were to sign Janet Jackson and the Rolling Stories, This husiness is about taking risks and being decisive about what you believe in.

As a manager, Ken trusts his people and is very good about letting them get on with their jobs. Additionally, I admire the fact that his wine cellar is even better than

Paul Birch

Managing Director, Revolver Music

A MAN in the industry I very much admire is Touv Wadsworth of EMI. He is a very moderate chap and a negotiator with a light touch. There are some difficult issues which crop up in music which can bring companies into confrootation so, obvi-

ously, his light touch is a good thing. Paul Burger should be mentioned purely because he brought Celine Dion to the world. And also because he's an extraordinary man. One day he's bound to become the boss of Sony Worldwide. He's not at manner. I think he'll prove to be a long-distance runner.

Finally, I'd like to mention Roh Dickens who has progressed from the bottom to the top. He was a firm hand at Warners when it needed it and is now chairman of BPL About two weeks ago set up his own label

- Instant Karma. He handles the difficult issues with judgement and reason. It may seem like the entertainment business is all fun, but there are constantly knives at our backs. He manages to work through the chaos with dignity and humour. The ooe quality these three all have in common is vision. That's the most difficult commodity to both find and



Chairman.

The man in the industry who particularly stands out for me is Nick Phillips of Warner Music. In music industry terms, at 35 years old he's very young to be such a high-profile executive, but I think that he's heading up a new school of record executives. His open style of management is vastly different from that of the old school which tended to be far more autocratic. His lack of ego is refreshing in our particular arena and also, I think, endears him both to his colleagues and competitors. He is a very clear thinker who rarely shoots from the hip and is a considered operator which is important in this fastmoving husiness. You'd expect anyone successful in the music busi-

alds a whole new era of executives.

Jeremy Pearce Chief Executive

V2 Music Group The apparently freewheeling music business is actually dominated by the five major record companies big businesses answerable to shareholders and therefore employing corporate administrators as chief executives. Fortunately this leaves a niche for independent companies like V2 which can make up in creativity what they lack in financial by more creative people. Although he recently tried to pinch one of V2's key people, I still believe the best music executive in the major sphere always chosen to remain indepen-

International Universal is the greatest ever record world's largest music company since its takeover of PolyGram last year. To satisfactorily combine the two companies' cultures and rosters of artists is probably an impossible. task, hut Jorgen is the best person to have a crack at it, being not only a superb polyglot business administrator with international per-

understands music and has respect for his subordinates. The most accomplished leader in the UK independent sphere has to be Martin Mills of Beggars Banquet, who has experience of the entire music business and would grace any major record company, but has . grows and is nurtured. But I'd

spective, hut also someone who-

marks him out particularly, as I said, ness, chairman of Universal Music representative body, AIM. The is Berry Gordy Junior, who started his career as songwriter for Jackie Wilson but went on to establish the finest independent record company of them all, Tamla Motown, at one time the world's largest hlackowned corporation, the like of which won't be seen again.

> - Alan McGee Chairman, Creation Records

Were I to have to chose the people I admire most in the music industry, I would chose the ones who possessed a relentless vision of music and the sub-culture from which it rather not spare any thoughts for ness to have an astute musical brain is my old boss, Jorgen Larsen, who dent. He has recently been instru- the music industry really. It de-

presses me. However, there is mensely: Lincoln Elias from Sor S2 He's a black guy and has d incredibly well considering music business tends to be both. ist and racist. It's incredibly harr anyone to make their mark a times it seems to be run by pu schoolboys, However, Lincoln because ultimately you're judge who you sign and whether you records. It's a business in which hard to be consistent and yet coin is. Lincoln's genius lies it complete love of music.

John Kennedy Chairman and Chief Executive

Universal Music UK Ltd One man I particularly admire in business is Rob Dickens who been chairman of Warner and is chairman of Instant Karma, wi has only been in existence for a ple of weeks. He has ended up: highly regarded senior player in record industry which I would is an ageist one. He's shown you stay young and that age isn't r vant and that such a broad rang experience can only be a plus. best use he's put his experience is as chairman of BPI where I shown a level of professionalism be proud of. Certainly I am hap that there will be a slight rest from his direction while he huilds

his new company.

Alan McGee of Creation is a w respected player in the independe sector of the industry. He's got tense entrepreneurial skills whi have enabled him to build up l company from zero with tens pounds rather than millions to wh is now a company with an impre sive empathy with its artists. And d livering to us in Oasis one of the mo significant Brit bands for a long tim just when we needed a shake-up.

550

Tony Wadsworth

President and Chief Executive EMI Records Group UK To paraphrase the Clash, a lot what we do is "turning rebellioo inf money". From a business point view, I admire executives who ca build up a business and manage ti commercial aspects of the job, whi protecting, preserving and pr moting the vision and integrity of t artist - like Chris Blackwell w Island Records and Bob Marley Ahmet Ertegun with Atlan Records.

There are also people who m aged to do that successfully wit the context of a larger organisat such as John Hammond at Colu bia Records and George Martin Parlophone. As the business gr all learn a lot from their examp think Ken Berry of EMI Recor Music manages to cultivate creative freedom within a larg ganisation.

At its worst, the business seem to be a collection of oppo interests - record company, ar manager, lawyer, retailer, etc... it works best when there is a sh purpose, teamwork and res The artists manager or repre tative can be crucial in helpin happen, so I have huge respec Roger Davies who manages this across a host of major a like Tina Turner, Janet Jackson Cocker, M People and many of

INTERVIEW SALLY CHATTE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

A vital survival guide for managers

IT IS hizarre reviewing a book tors. But it is difficult to refuse an early opportunity to read the scripts of a truly remarkable entrepreneur.

Thanks Michael, about time too. This is the book the computer industry has been longing for, to try to establish just how you did it. To my pleasant surprise

the book went further than just detailing how Dell has achieved such meteoric growth. It is what I believe an honest account of Michael Dell's husiness philosophy. Anyone buying the book as a history lesson might be a little disappointed.

It's not Michael Dell's memoirs, nor a detailed account of events at Dell Corporation. Instead it is a solid management survival guide, full of tips and advice based on Dell's approach and culture. I found it practical and useful. I would challenge any selfpropelled business person not page and on many occasions

by Michael Dell (HarperCollins, £19.99)

to derive useful lessons from it. The book divided into two sections, and an easy read. It is not full of technical jargon or industry-speak and you won't need to call any computer technical support lines, to be put on hold for hours, just to find out the meaning of yet another industry TLA (three letter acronym).

In the first section Michael describes the growth of Dell from the cradle to a \$18bn juggernaut. But rather than detail the growth purely for the interest of business historians. he uses each step to pass on a wealth of business advice. It is oot simply a case of "I did this" and "We did that", it is more of "We did this and what

we learnt was ...". I found his open writing style had me glued to every



I found myself jotting ideas in my diary with a view to insti-

gating them in my business. The second section is a collection of Dell's viewpoints and techniques for building partnerships with his employees, customers and suppliers. I found this section very interesting and couldn't agree more with the majority of the cootent. In particular, two things struck a chord,

formation flow through a business and secondly, how Michael Dell is using the Inhicle but to conduct customer

In every husiness book I read, I always try to find the one sentence or paragraph that really stimulates me to change or challenge something I do in my own organisation or one I can bring up as a topic in management meetings. This book presented me with dozens of topics.

Three useful subjects covered in the book are: ■Keep it simple, complexity

You have to constantly question everything you do, and You need to engender a sense of personal investment in all of your employees. I also found a great analo-

gy to help explain how the Internet fits into the higger picture with customers. The Internet is not a substitute for Software Worehouse

firstly the importance of in- a live salesperson, he writes but adds that it does augment the sales rep's functions

"The relationship is similar ternet not just as a sales ve- .to that between a customer and a bank. For major transactions, customers want to talk to a real person: other times, they're happy to use an ATM." I find little more interesting and stimulating than to read books by authors who have themselves been successful in business.

Sure, you can glean information from authors who are great strategists and theorists, but unless they have experienced the "doing it", their ideas and viewpoints lack both passion and depth.

If you also judge the quality of a business book from how useful it is, I am sure that you will find Direct from Dell has you scribbling down notes from cover to cover

STEVE BENNETT The reviewer is the founder of

MY FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

Too good for busines

CLIFF STANFORD first went to La Tante Claire before he founded Demon Internet in 1992 with just £20,000 of startup capital. "It was a real splash-out," he says. "I wanted to treat some friends to what I considered to be a meal in the best restaurant there

A year on from having sold Demon for £66m, his visits to the traditional French restaurant remain occasional.

It gets booked up far too early for him to be able to plan more than a once-a-vear visit there from his home in Brussels. "And frankly," he adds, "it's far too expensive and far too nice to take business peo-

"You're so concentrating on the food and its spectacular presentation that you probably wouldn't get any business done." Not only this, but but he

finds the intimate atmosphere is not conducive to confidential business talk. "Some



of the customers - and this is what is really special about Tante Claire - will lean over and tell you, Tve just had such-and-such and it was ab-

solutely wonderful'."
Stuffed pigs' trotters remain one of Stanford's enduring memories of dining at the 23-year-old restaurant, which moved from its former home in Royal Hospital Road, SW1 (Telephone 0171-8 Chelsea, to space in the 2003)



his energies on Redbus vestment, the seed-car company he founded selling Demon, says Th Claire's waiters are puri larly helpful, describing dishes in detail and always

oeriment.

Though trotters are

thing given away in m

butchers' shop, he says, #

particular trotters were "

The 44-year-old entre

neur who now concent

nomenally good".

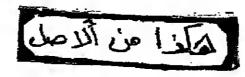
The menu he adds. been different each time has visited - but it is always spectacular.

couraging customers to

As he says: "It's more ofeating experience than place you go when you

hungry. NAOMI MARK

La Tante Claire, Berkelt Hotel, Wilton Place, Londo



Stock-taking time for the Pep phenomenon

drawing to its normal, frantic lastminute rush, it seems a good moment to stop and make some observations about the whole

body at the time the first PEP was launched in 1986 could have foreseen quite how successful the beneficiaries of the PEP business phenomenon would prove to be.

As Nigel Lawson makes clear in his memoirs, his motive in introencourage direct investment by individuals in UK company shares. He was not sure whether they would help to boost the country's savings rate, or merely move money from one home (such as National Savings) to another.

As it happens, PEPs have done little to promote direct investment in equities: single-company and self-managed PEPs remain but a small part of the overall PEPs market. Instead, after a shaky start, what PEPs have proved to be is a

business has succeeded in reinventing itself beyond its wildest possible dreams.

Most of the huge flow of funds which have poured into PEPs in re-It is fair to say, I think that no-cent years has gone into unit trusts. Investment trusts have also benefited, but to a lesser extent. Other include IFAs (many of whom have grown fat on the back of PEP commissions) and the financial press, ducing FEPs as Chancellor was to which has enjoyed the fruits of the heavy advertising which now routinely accompanies the end of the PEPs season.

So it is fair to say that PEPs have been a powerful factor in changing the landscape of the personal financial husiness, but not quite in the way that was originally intended.

As the PEP business has coincided with one of the greatest bull markets of all time on the stock market, it is impossible to deny that the net impact on many ordinary in-

means by which the unit trust vestors has been both positive and enduring. What it demonstrates also is that when it comes to savings most people rightly like to keep things simple. They like the tax benefits of PEPs, of course: but what their behaviour over the last 13 years shows also, I suspect, is

that they also like two other things. One is a freedom from hassle. One reason why most people prefer to hold shares through the expensive medium of a unit trust rather than some more costeffective alternative is that they simply cannot be bothered with all the hassle of owning shares

They are happy to pay over the odds for the privilege of having most of the hard work done for them. (This may also explain the fact that so many prefer to wait until the very last minute before doing anything about their annual tax-free allowance.)

The second thing is that most people still prefer to be sold



JONATHAN DAVIS

The impact on many ordinary investors has been both positive and enduring

something rather than huy it happy also to take on trust the in-themselves. Most people still don't plied claims (all based on past perfully realise quite how expensive unit trusts are.

Even since the introduction of key features documents, with their accompanying reduction in vield tables, it is remarkable how resilient sales of some of the most expensive unit trusts have been...

There is also a clear correlation between recent performance and sales figures, as those with off periods in recent performance (such as M&G and apparently more re-cently Schroders and Perpetual) can testify to their cost.

Given that past performance is such an unreliable guide to future performance, it is clear that what many people are signalling is that they are simply not confident enough to make their own

They are bappy to be guided by IFAs in their choice of PEPs, despite the evident distortions introduced by the commission system, and

formance) which they read about m the advertising. I don't think anyone could foresee the emergence of brands of this kind when the PEP business started. At a deeper level, what this behaviour points to is a

continuing lack of education in the basics of money and financial ernment's noble intentions in trying to promote wider understanding of financial issues. It is also trying to help savers help themselves

with its Cost Access and Terms (CAT) standards for the new ISAs which will replace PEPs next year and with its proposals for cheap stakeholder pensions. Nobody can take issue with its diagnosis of the problem nor, I am sure, with the

sincerity of its objectives. The history of PEPs is a salutary warning, however, that things rarely go according to plan when governments start trying to muck

around with the way that the mar-ket works. This Government has not got off to the best of starts: its proposals for ISAs are not very well

thought out. They are too complicated and open to an obvious criticism, which is: "Why muck around with the PEP formula when it has clearly been shown to be what the market wants?" The cynical answer, which This is what lies behind the Gov- is that every new government prefers to have its own, better mousetrap, is probably painfully

What we have to wait to see now is whether the industry is prepared to pick up the ISA ball and run with . By insisting on low charges for its CAT standard, the Government is posing a direct threat to the profitability of the business.

It will be interesting to see how many firms are confident enough in their hrands to bypass the CAT standard - and how many of their customers will go with them in that

Should you invest in... clothing " retailers?

INVESTORS WHO adopt the principle that it makes sense to invest in the providers of products and services that they see people actually buying on the high street will at present be avoiding the clothing retailers. For this group of companies has under-performed markedly over recent months, primarily as a result of depressed levels of spending on the high street.

"The market has not been very good over the past six months or so," reports Rowan Morgan, a retail analyst at stockbrokers Teather & Greenwood.

This is partly because consumer ending is low and partly because there is oot enough differentiation between the clothing retailers. They have been concentrating on the safe, middle ground."

There remains, however, a place for clothing retailers within a portfolio, according to David Thornton, vestment Trust. "We have been emphasising general retailing for some and Debenhams," he points out, "However, you can't escape the fact that general retailing has been beaten up very badly over the last year, for obvious reasons. There has been a slow-down in the economy, with a generally low-inflation environment and tight-fisted consumers."

Clothing retailers are, indeed, dependent on the willingness of consumers to keep huying their ares and this demand has been sorely lacking in recent months. leading to a classic case of oversupply. "The problem is that there is too much retail space," says Rowan Morgan, "at a time when there is low inflation, so prices have been at best flat, or even slightly down. It is going to remain a highly

Dominating the sector is the fate of Marks & Spencer, for years a core holding in many a private investor's BY KIERON ROOT

portfolio. "The problems at Marks & Spencer are the big issue," Mr Morgan adds. "How Marks repositions itself, in terms of brand, quality and price, is the key factor. The company has diversified - 40 per cent of its UK business is now food retailing - but the food side slowed down in advance of the rest of the business. The question is, at what point will Marks start to recover?"
"Some companies have screwed

up, like Marks & Spencer, while others have tripped up like Next." opines David Thornton. "But the overall result is that there has been a lot of doom and gloom around. This has resulted in a considerable de-rating among these companies."

Such a de-rating, of course, creates opportunities. "We have adopted the view that we can see how things are going to improve," Mr Thornton ack have been firm believers in a soft landing for the economy, and the rest time and have big holdings in Next of the market is beginning to take this on board. We think there is some good value to be had, predicated on the basis that the consumer, having been out of the market for some time, is now coming back."

Stock selection, however, is the key. "We remain quite selective in this area," he points out, using the example of two of the bigger clothing retailers, Next and Arcadia Group, to illustrate the point, "Next has been a very successful company that has been very focused on one been the way it has managed its inventory over the years, yet even Next got a season's ordering wrong

The situation with Arcadia is that, despite its size, it does not have the same strengths of brand and management as Next. "Arcadia has improved," says Mr Thornton. "But



The problems at Marks & Spencer - once a core holding for private investors - have highlighted difficulties in a sector suffering from over-capacity David Rose

historically it has been in a situation where it has had to discount to get higher volumes and, in doing so, its margins have been squeezed. Its brand, with excellent long-term vol- brands are less strong than Next's, umes. One of the key factors has and it is dependent on the health of consumer spending."

Rowan Morgan suggests that while Arcadia has been suffering from the general lack of demand from consumers, Debenhams has been one of the more successful retailers while Next has been benefiting from the problems at M&S.

"Debenhams has done rather

better than the others with its emphasis on exclusive hrands," he says. "And Next, which recovered from a blip in 1997, is doing very well now. When Marks comes back, Next will find life more difficult."

Concentration is on the larger stocks, since smaller clothing retailers are even more at the mercy of consumer confidence. "Among the smaller companies.

Oasis Stores should carry on quite well, but I think that clothing retailers generally are going to have a pretty poor summer, unless we get

Morgan says. But there is a reasonable degree of confidence that sales volume will pick up towards the end of the year as the millennium party season starts.

"Further out, I think that during the third quarter of this year, and more especially the fourth quarter. we will probably see sales improve as consumers start spending more,"

The consensus view of the sector is that things will get better as consumer spending improves, but that

some stonking good weather," Mr this will not necessarily mean a bonauza for all clothing retailers. "We are in an improving retail environment, and things have got better in recent months," David Thornton confirms, "but the tide might not be strong enough to raise all boats. We continue to place a premium on management and the brands. You have to be selective, so it is Next and Debenhams over Marks and

Kieron Root is the editor of The

Storehouse at the moment."

SHAREWATCH

Although GKN should see a slowdown in their core automotive division, the stock's growth profile can ride on the back of the continued success of the industrial services division and positive news from the acrospace and special vehicle division, says BT Alex Brown, which has upgraded the shares (956p) to a buy. The stock justifies a target a share price of £11, the broker adds. Improving prospects for the industry. sustained growth in earnings and a relatively modest rating make Northern Leisure shares (134p) are very attractive, argues Teather & Greenwood. The market for nightclubs is very fragmented, giving it ample scope to grow at the rate of around 15 sites a year, predominatly purchased from independent operators. Each acquisition costs £1.5-£2m, a 30 per cent return is targeted and contribution to pre-tax profits from a new site is around £200,000. adds TG.

SELL

Avoid Cortecs (21p), says Sutherlands, which points out that an independent report into its scientific programmes is the shortly. The biotech company commissioned the report last year after it announced its three lead programmes were not as advanced as had been indicated. and also undertook a review of its systems and pipeline to try to reduce cashburn itself.

South African Breweries 20 per cent-plus outperformance meant that the shares (570p) have exceeded the initial price objective of 530p, says Merrill Lynch, which has now cut its intermediate recommendation to neutral

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: OUR MAN'S PORTFOLIO

You can bank on reaping the rewards of conversion

not to force them to face the rigours of a stock market quotation, it is, perhaps, worth looking at the rewards of those who have voted for

So far, five building societies have become mortgage banks quoted on the stock market. Alliance & Leicester. Halifax, Northern Rock and Woolwich abandoned mutuality in favour of becoming public companies with shareholders instead of members in the past couple of years. Abbey National is the granddaddy of the converters - electing to become a stock market company in 1989.

Many investors cashed in when is ishares were floated. Those who on have not fared too badly in share price terms and have reaped the rewards of increasing dividends plus special payments.

Abbey gave its members 100 free shares and sold them others at 130p a time. So a price of 1,278p with the share market with useful gains.

AS NEMBERS of two more building a 1.358p peak is not a bad reward for societies are urged by their directors ten years' dedication to the former ten years' dedication to the former building society.

Alliance arrived at around 550p, has been as high as 964p and, at the time of writing, resides at 855p. Halifax started near 730p, went to 977p and is now 775.5p. Northern Rock has moved from 460p to hit 668.5p and is now 511p. Woolwich's journey has been from near 300p to just above 400p. The shares are now resting at 387.5p.

Abbey's performance supports my advice that an investor will not come to much harm by giving a sound blue chip a long run. After all, that is the philosophy of most fund

The others which opted for demutualisation have, quite clearly, not been around long enough to make any contribution to the long-term argument for blue chips. Still they have, in varying degrees, provided those prepared to run the risks of



DEREK PAIN

The Halifax reorganisation has come in for some ill-considered criticism. With its coffers overflowing, it is handing out 62p a share, reducing the number of shares in issue by killing off three out of every 40 and paying a 13.5p dividend. It has also indulged in a £1hn share buyback which has yet, however, to pro-

vide much in the way of tangible benefits to private shareholders.

The five mortgage banks will also feature in the consolidation of the financial industry. Many are convinced it will not be long before a big deal materialises.

At times the speculation has been intense - although a mega deal is still awaited. Rumours have already linked Abbey and Halifax with National Westminster Bank and/ or Barclays and Lloyds TSB is piling up cash and will need to make a predatory strike shortly. The merger fever which has broken out Bradford & Bingley where 70 memamong continental banks will merely add flame to the smouldering fires of corporate activity.

Of course, cash rewards are only part of the conversion argument. Certainly shareholders fare better than members when it comes to totting up the loot.

Building societies promise many benefits from mutuality, such as cheaper mortgages and higher in-

terest rates. I find it surprising that has at least allowed Hardern to these alleged rewards seem to have, in the main, materialised after the conversion bandwagon started to

Those of us who obtained mortgages in the near mutual monopoly which existed in the 30 years before Abbey converted certainly saw little evidence of the "members first" attitude which is now, it seems, the theme which dominates a society's

under attack from the converters. bers are urging the switch, and Britannia, where the controversial and ubiquitous former butler Michael

Hardern has popped up. Britannia, probably because it is facing what it regards as the confinable challenge of the eccentric, arch carpet-bagger Hardern, has adopted a relatively measured, unruffled but one-sided approach in its

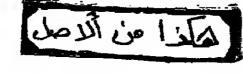
stand for election as a director others refused Bradford & Bingley has got itself

into quite a tizzy and the presentation of some of its literature against the conversion proposal is aston-Its voting form is remorselessly geared to encouraging a "No" vote and members are offered the

following loaded resolution: "Bradford & Bingley should re At present, two societies are main a mutual huilding society working in the best interests of its members both now and in the

> It is surprising that such a partisan voting form is permitted in these politically correct days when any hint of bias is jumped upon.

> I would, however, be surprised if either society converts. But quite clearly the pressure is mounting on the mutuals which seem to be adopting some odd tactics in their struggle to avoid the dreaded plc status.



Going for brokerage in cyberspace

YOU MAY be among the thousands seduced by Apple's advertising into buying an iMac in five fruity flavours, or perhaps you have purchased one of any number of PC clones in a out immediately at the price specishade of beige. No matter. Virtually all the personal computers being Fastrade accept limit orders for the sold come with Internet access as part of the package, including modem and software.

So you have Internet access and you are ready to invest. Your choice of stockbroker may be limited but how do you choose which to use? Remember, all the online dealing services available are execution-only, which means that what you choose to buy and sell and when you choose to buy and sell it is up to you alone.

Among US broking houses, cheap online deals were pioneered by E-Trade five years ago. It charges a minimum of \$14.95 for trades in shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange and \$19.95 for over-thecounter shares on Nasdaq. But E-Trade is not the cheapest. Ameritrade's prices start at \$8 a deal and Suretrade at \$7.95.

is not as price-competitive. Competition among brokerages is limited and stamp duty of 0.5 per cent is also payable on dealings. In some cases Internet deals are not even cheaper than alternative methods, specifically trading over the telephone. But it can be a convenient way of managing a portfolio of investments.

Charles Schwab Europe, has moved into online electronic trading. Guy Knight, vice-president of European marketing, said: "UK brokers have already chased each other down ahead of automation. This is a way of maintaining those low prices - it is not going to get exceptionally cheaper.

On the surface, the lowest price on offer to UK customers is offered by Cave & Sons at £5 plus 1 per cent up to a deal value of £5,000. But this is an e-mail service only. It competes with Xest, James Brearley and Fastrade, Their minimum dealing charges are £20, £20 and £15 respectively. You may specify a limit price at which you wish to deal with these services, to make sure you don't end up buying or selling at more than you wish to pay or less than you wish to get.

BY ROBIN AMLOT

to say, if the trade cannot be carried fied it is cancelled. Brearley and day before cancelling them if they are unable to fulfil the trade.

Stocktrade, a division of the Edinburgh-based stockbroker Brewin Dolphin Securities, was the first to announce a real-time service last

The systems behind Stocktrade were developed with assistance from Interactive Investor. The chair. Sherry Leigh Coutu, described real-time trading as "a significant move towards a democratic marketplace, giving private investors an equal footing with the institutions and making the market healthier for

It takes about two weeks to set up an account with Stocktrade. Once registered, you pay £25 per trade up to a value of £12,500. You also pay an annual Crest Sponsored Member-Trading on the Internet in the UK, ship service charge of £25. Trades are settled on a T+1 basis, which means you take delivery of the shares or the cash is put into your account the day after you deal. When you trade you will be given 15 seconds to accept the price offered before the quote lapses.

Charles Schwab Europe offers two services, Frequent Traders Club and Market Master. The Frequent Traders Club has a £15 connection fee and costs £60 a year in "membership" but each trade thereafter is a flat £19.50 no matter the size of the transaction. There is a £25 oneoff connection fee but no annual subscription charge for Market Master and trading costs start at a minimum of £15 or 0.9 per cent on deals up to

Barclays Stockbrokers' service expects to have more than 10,000 customers before the end of 1999. It offers the first online service which does not require you to hold your shares via a nominee account.

Phillip Bungey, research and development Director of Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "Independent research has shown that the majority of investors still prefer to deal with certificates than with a nominee But Xest accepts limit orders so we have responded to this de-



Apple's iMac, like virtually all new personal computers, comes with Internet access as part of the package to attract online investors

tificated Internet dealing service." You also have just 15 seconds with Barclays Stockbrokers in which to accept or reject a price quote. The minimum dealing cost is £17.50 or 1.5 per cent on trades under £5,000.

The firm is also trumpeting its Price Improver system, introduced in November, which it claims should improve the price you get as buyer or seller Philip Bungey says: "Via our system, all the main market makers in any given share are scanned to ensure the best price at link to only one market-maker and we have proved that 50 per cent of only on a "fill or kill" basis. That is mand by providing the UK's first cer- the time our system will ensure a

better price." Signing up to the Stocktrade or Charles Schwab Europe's service involves sending them an e-mail from their website. They will send you a full information pack by return via the Royal Mail.

You are required to fill in and return the forms with any fees required and the funds needed to open your trading account, and you will be supplied with an access password.

Barclays Stockbrokers is touting its service as the easiest to join with free registration and it takes five minutes for the online credit check. Barclays Stockbrokers' on-screen application form asks for address, credit and bank account details.

What you put in is checked electronically with your bank and against the voter roll to make sure you are who you say you are, Barclays is prepared to offer an immediate trading facility of up to £7,500.

In the fourth quarter of 1998, E-Trade was rated as the world's top online investing site by financial researchers from the Lafferty Group in its web-based Financial Services

But, in February, E-Trade suffered the largest number of temporary breakdowns, which have affected several US online brokerages, leaving many customers unable to trade

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For income, it pays to shop around

SELECTING AN investment for income is a bit like taking the children shopping at a supermarket - shelves full of mouth-watering goodies that junior insists on having, when you know that an apple is healthier.

In investments, having too much money on deposit can also lead to problems with the pounds in the future - hut in this case having too few rather than too many.

Those attractive interest rates may look more tempting than the lower rates offered by some other investments but what will they do in the future? A basket of goods priced at £1 in 1948 would now cost nearly £20, so investing for the long-term should involve looking out for capital, not just income.

Not that there is anything inherently wrong with having money on deposit. Emergency funds should be held on deposit and, if you switched money out of the equity markets into cash earlier this year, you would have beaten most investments over that time. Over the long-term, though, a PEP now or an ISA after 5 April, other investments should do better.

We asked five leading independent financial advisers for their views. James Bruce, of Colchester-based Corporate & Personal Planning, says timescale is key to many investment decisions. If you have 20 years until you retire, you may have little need for income now, so your

quality unit trusts investing in UK shares, perhaps split between tracker funds and actively managed funds. If, however, you need access to your cash or will do so soon, your

portfolio may consist largely of good-

BY ANDREW COUCHMAN

money is likely to be on deposit. Only when you can take at least a threeto-five-year view should you look for capital growth, Mr Bruce advises. Taking a short-term view, the Moneufacts faxback service provides a list of current top rates.

Mark Dampier, of Churchill Investments, based just outside Bristol, says: "Base rates could fall to 5 per cent or below over the next 12 months. With the best deposit rates at around 6 per cent now, we can expect to see top rates fall to about 4.5 to 5 per cent in the near future. So investors should start to plan for this now and not wait until it happens."

If you need a yield of more than 9 per cent, Mr Dampier's tip is to look at split-income shares of investment trusts. These are likely to involve a capital loss on redemption but the Exeter High Income Unit Trust yields around 9.24 per cent, can be put into and has capital growth potential.

Slightly lower yields come from the M&G High Yield Corporate Bond, at 8.5 per cent. Aberdeen High Yield Bond at 9 per cent and Aberdeen Fixed Interest yielding 8 per cent. If you are looking for an income of between 5 and 8 per cent. Mr Dampier likes the look of corporate honds, especially Credit Suisse Monthly Corporate Bond, yielding 6.7 per cent and CGU Monthly Income Plus at 7 per cent. With-profit bonds are also on the kept to 5 per cent. Scottish Widows is one he fancies.

David Burren, of the Cheltenhambased Warwick Butchart Associates. says that the cautious investor could look at the Fleming Save & Prosper Extra Income fund, again ISA-able. This balanced fund invests 55 per cent in mainly blue-chip shares, 40 per cent in government and corporate bonds and 5 per cent in cash. It at present yields 4.7 per cent.

What about guaranteed income bonds, now offered by a number of insurance companies, can they offer an alternative to equity-based investments? Up to a point they can, says Danby Bloch, of the London adviser Raymond Godfrey and Partners. There are two types of such bonds. The first simply pays out a fixed income, from one to up to five years, and repays your capital at the end of the term. Returns are not very exciting but, if interest rates do fall, as many now expect, they could look attractive.

The second type is more complex but offers a much higher return. Scot-tish Life pays an "income" of 9 per cent a year for five and a half years. The downside is that your capital is only returned if the average of the FTSE and Swiss stock markets rises

by, on average, 5.85 per cent a year. Mr Bloch says he is not comfortable with such plans, preferring an open-ended investment and more flexibility. The bonds are popular though with many people but you are gambling on what stock markets will do over the next few years.



The sweetest-looking investments may not always be the bealthiest for income in the long term Edward Webb

suggests another ootion for the investor looking for income. If you have used up your PEP and Tessa allowances, or you are unable to invest in the next few days, you could consider an offshore investment bond.

"There is nothing illegal about offshore bonds, they are just another financial investment," she says. Many offshore insurers are subsidiaries of well-known UK firms.

The higher-rate taxpayer gets the advantage of a tax-free roll-up and can take out 5 per cent of their investment every year for 20 years with no immediate tax liability. The trick is to encash such bonds in s tax . year when your income is very low as you must pay tax on all gains at your then highest tax rate.

Charges are comparable with mainland insurers at 5 to 6 per cent Amanda Davidson, of the London for the bid/offer spread and an an-

per cent, Offshore bonds are at the exotic end of financial services and do require expert advice both before investing and during the bond's life. The key with all such investment choices is to ensure that you look carefully at both the investment itself and at your own income needs both now and in the future.

Churchill Investments: 01934 844 444: Corporate & Personal Planning: 01206 853888; Holden Meehan: 0171 404 6442; Raymond Godfrey & Part-ners: 0171-250 0967; Warwick Butchart & Associates: 01242 584 144.

"The Independent" has produced a free last-minute Guide to PEPs. The 28-page guide by personal finance editor Nic Cicutti also explains the new Individual Savings Account. The guide is sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management, For agenda, especially if withdrawals are financial advisers Holden Meehan, nual management charge of 1 to 1.5 your free copy call 0345 675910.

ISAs are ready for take-off

FED UP WITH all the last-minute PEP hoopla, the endless exhortations to invest now before this wonderful tax break disappears for good? By the time you read this, it

will be almost too late to start a PEP. Not to worry - you can set up an Individual Savings Account (ISA) instead. As far as tax is concerned. the rules for ISAs are the same as those for PEPs: exemption from capital gains tax, freedom from income tax, but with the diminishing benefit of dividend tax credits, which drop to 10 per cent from April this year and are abolished in five years' time. Even so, investors seeking a first-time tax-free haven for their cash are best off looking at ISAs.

So what are the ISA investment rules? In 1999/2000, one may invest up to £7,000, and £5,000 a year in subsequent years. This compares with a maximum of £9,000 into regular and single-company PEPs, plus 29,000 into a Tessa over five years.

Permitted investments in an ISA will be far broader than under the old PEP/Tessa regime. PEP rules specify that up to £1,500 of the annual £5,000 allowance for a full PEP can go into "non-qualifying" funds. The rest must go into UK and European Union equities and bonds. ISAs will have up to three components: equity, cash and insurance. The equity part will be allowed to hold "any share traded on any recognised stock

exchange anywhere in the world". What this relaxation of the rules will allow is far wider choice of asset allocation. If you want to invest your whole annual allowance into, BY NIC CICUTTI

say, an emerging markets fund, you

will be free to do so. Fund managers plan to take advantage of this rule change. While they will be offering in ISA form all the funds already available as PEPs, they will also be offering previously "unPEPable" funds too. Investec Guinness Flight, for example, is preparing to offer 14 funds, including its Global High Income fund previously not even available as a non-qualifying PEP fund - through an ISA account. This invests in

mainly Western government bonds. Another important difference is that ISAs will be permitted to hold a far wider range of fixed interest securities such as UK and foreign corporate and government bonds. With the exception of UK gilts, all of these must have five years or more until maturity when bought into the ISA, but can be sold out of it at any time. Any gain on such a disposal will stay "inside" the account free of tax.

Over the shorter term, gilts, National Savings certificates and cash deposits with less than five years to maturity can be held in an ISA. Onedistinctive feature of ISAs will be their use of CATmarks. The aim of these is to ensure a "fair and reasonable deal".

CFFSH

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Statement Islands ... Les Report

HERS GUARARTEED INCOME

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Applied to the cash and insurance elements of ISAs the CATmarks will indicate low minimum premiums, few penalties, and surrender values reflecting the value underlying assets in an account

MY BIGGEST MISTAKE: TIM TOZER

The Rottweilers made sure we never got the Jags back

made was to let two cars go without letting the hard currency hit our that hard currency had been lodged bank account. The cars were a in a third-party bank, who were in Jaguar XJS (right) and an XJ40 sa- the process of getting the money to loon, which would together retail at our bank account. I let the cars go about £70,000.

It was the first business where I was the managing director, and my first overseas posting, and to be honest there was a level of naivety and trust - I had been there about four or five months and assumed I could not going to go in and get the cars take things at face value. Inevitably when selling cars, you were dealing wrote them off, and it was a salutary

MY BIGGEST mistake hap- with some bad guys who wanted to pened in Finland: the mistake I pay you in cash. The paperwork had seemingly come in to us to indicate in good faith. It was an expensive learning curve.

We did hire a private investigator to find the cars, but he eventually saw the cars in a compound in Moscow, and his report said: "I am - there are lots of Rottweilers." We



making business at the time. It selling to were not to be trusted. would have been easy to take from The real issue was that, within the

lesson, because it was a loss- that experience that the people I was business, we didn't have a robust

Tim Tozer, 39, spent 10 years with Royer before joining inchcape. He left Chrysler France last January to join Mazda UK Ltd as managing director

enough process by which decisions could be made in good business faith.

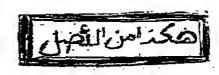
that at a cursory level, an MD could look at a piece of paper and seemingly make the right decision, without the absolute rigour of a process which would have prevented that paper getting to my desk without the monies already being in the account.

It had a massive impact on me: it was a defining moment. It got me to focus on the fact that if you have solidity of process in a business, and if the detail is gone into - in the sense of the managing director having a prerogative to challenge detail where he wants to - then I think you

What I principally took from it was have a solid context for the man agement of a business against a consistent performance criteria.

If expectations are laid out in a controlled environment, we are better able to measure how the business is doing. You come to a platform where you can give individuals a clearer context to develop their own personalities and characters, to take responsibility to do their own thing within a process-oriented environment, and to come up with an ceptions which might well be talk good ones as an alternative to the bedrock of process.





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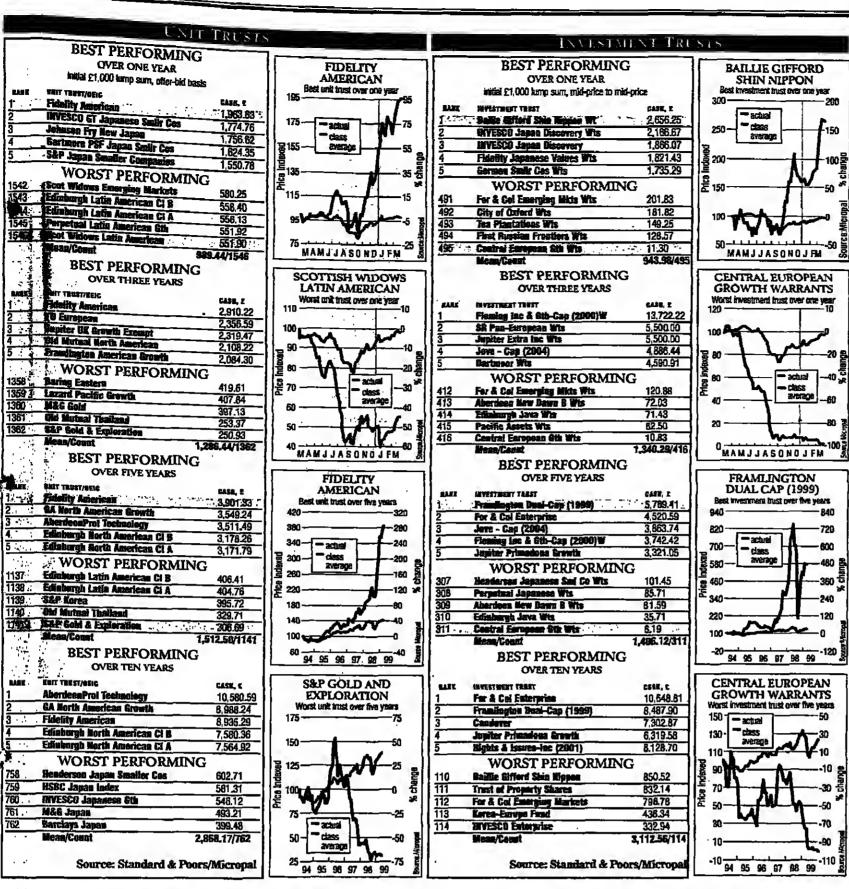
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3 Fidelity European Values 4 TR European Growth 5 Gartmere Irish Smaller Cos Ican/Count PERMANENT Pier con Bhuingham Bradford Bratania Coventry Londs & Holbeck Bewcastle Skipton	872.84 858.78 782.83 978.39/15 1NT11.R1 Post (green, %) 9% 13% 13 12% 13% 10% 10%	Floming Enro German Smell Enropean Ass Mean/Count Source: Sta ST-B E-A Munimum (c) 1,000 10,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000	PRICE (pouch) 188 209.5 198 189 3/4 205 206	1,375.32 12 1,333.41 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 00rs/Micropal A R I S VIELS (97888, 5) 6.38 6.18 6.21 6.57 6.39 6.52 8.14 6.13
3 Fidelity European Values 4 TR European Growth 5 Gartners Irish Smaller Cos fcom/Coent PERMIA VIIII PIES con Bhmingham Bradford Britanala Coventry Loeds & Helbeck Mewcastle Skipton PERPITIAL SERBREMATED BRIES COM	872.84 858.78 782.83 978.39/15 11% 11% 133 12/8 10/4 12/8	Floming Enrog German Smell Enropean Asso Mean/Count Source: State ST-B H-A Manufactum (c) 1,000 10,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 Minimum (c)	eran Florigating or Cas ers (NS842) andard & Po RING SII PRICE (perce) 147 188 209.5 198 189.3/4 205 175 206 214	1,375.32 12 1,333.41 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 6 18 6 38 6 18 6 21 6 57 6 39 6 59 8 14 6.13 6.02
3 Fidelity European Values 4 TR European Growth 5 Gartners Irish Smaller Cos Gean/Count PERMANENT PERMANENT PIES com Bhaningham Bradford Britannia Coventry Loeds & Helbeck Mewcastie Skipton PERPITIAL STRONGMATED BURES COM Cheltenham and Gloocester	872.84 858.78 782.83 973.39/15 1 11% 1 13% 1 13% 1 12% 1 12% 1 12% 1 12% 1 12%	Floming Enrog German Smell Enropean Asso Mean/Count Source: State Source	PRICE (PORCE) 185 1/5 198 189 3/4 205 214 PRICE (PORCE) 185 1/5 198 189 3/4 205 175 206 214	1,375.32 12 1,333.41 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 6 38 6 18 6 21 6 57 6 39 6 52 8 14 6.13 6.02 1721.0 (green, %) 6 34
3 Fidesity European Values 4 TR European Growth 5 Gartmere Irish Smaller Cos Mean/Coent PERMIA INTERPRETATION PRES CON Bitmingham Bradford Britannia Corentry Londs & Holbeck Bewcastle Skipton PERPITMA SERBRANATED BREES Cheltenham and Gloocester First Active	872.84 858.78 782.83 973.39/15 117/1 R1 12/6 13/6 10/4 12/6 12/6 12/6 12/6	Floming Enrog German Smell Enropean Asso Mean/Count Source: State Source	PRICE (perce) 185 1/4 185 1/4 159	1,375.32 12 1,333.41 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 6 38 6 18 6 21 6 57 6 39 6 52 8 14 6.13 6.02 1721.0 (green, %) 6 34 7.39
3 Fidelity European Values 4 TR European Growth 5 Gartmere Irish Smaller Cos Icen/Coent PERMIA INT PER CON Binningham Bradford Britannia Coventry Londs & Holbeck Rewcaptle Mewcaptle Me	872.84 858.78 782.83 973.39/15 117/1 R1 12/2 117/2 117/2 117/2 117/2 117/2 117/2 117/4 87/4	Floming Enrog German Smell Enropean Asso Mean/Count Source: State Source	PRICE (perce) 185 1/4 185 1/4 185 1/4 185 1/4 185 1/4 185 1/4 185 1/4 189 134 145 1/4	1,375.32 12 1,333.41 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 6 38 6 18 6 21 6 57 6 39 6 52 8 14 6 13 6 02 1721.0 (green, %) 6 34 7 39 6 5.57
3 Fidelity European Values 4 TR European Growth 5 Gartnere Irish Smaller Cos Icen/Coent PERMIA HATT PER CON Binningham Bradford Britannia Coventry Londs & Helbeck Rewcastle Skipton PERPITAL SEROEDRAFTED BREES Cheltenham and Gloocester First Active Halifax Halifax	872.84 858.78 782.83 973.39/15 PON (green, %) 974 11% 13 12/6 13/6 10/4 12/6 12/6 12/6 11/6 11/6 11/6 12/6 12/6	Floming Enro German Smell Enropean Ass Mean/Count Source: Sta ST-B F A MERITHUM (C) 1,000	PRICE (perce) 185 1/4 172 3/8	1,375.32 12 1,333.41 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 1,882.28 13 100rs/Micropal 6.38 6.18 6.21 6.57 6.39 6.52 8.14 6.13 6.02 12218 (9788. %) 6.52 8.14 6.13 6.02
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Source: Greenwich NatWest

Source	Standard &	Poors/Mucropa		94 95 96	97 98 99	Æ	Ц_
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	BE	ST SAVIN	GS RAT	TES			
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		ACCESS BR			VIS		
	TELEPAGE	ACCOUNT	NUTICE OR TEAM	BEPOSIT	ERUSS	APR I	MITERIAL PARTY
Tesco	0845 7104010	Tesco Savings	Instant	£1	4.50%		dy .
Woodwich	0800 222200	Card Saver	nslant	£50	4.75%	4.75%	_
helishire BS leacher's BS	0845 6006061 01202 843550	Access Saver Baltian	Instant Instant	£100 £500			ny 1/2 Yhy
							/L II
POST	TAL/TELEP	HONE ACC		- NO			
99	0845 6000292	Savings	Post/Phone	£1			<u>//y</u>
Argin Direct	0845 6101020	Direct Postal	Telephone Postal	£1 £500			ny Ny
Sun, Bank First Active	01438 744500 0800 558844	Rate Tracker	Post/Phone	21,000			ny ny
		ACCOUN				- 00m	۸.
forksbire BS Chelsea BS	0845 6006061	POST-tel 30	30 Day (P)	£100 £5,000			fly fly
Scarborough BS	01723 500616	40 Day Access	40 Day	21,000			N
Manchester BS	0161 8338898	Prima	120 Day	£10,000	6.05%	6.05% Y	Ту
	-	HEOLE AC	COLINE	'			•
Com Runk	01438 744505	HEQUE AC	Hone Hone	£1,000	4.25%	4.25% Y	Ίγ
Sun Bank LNC Bank	0181 4472040	HICA	Instant	£5,000			lly_
eeds & Holheck BS	0600 0728738	Albion Cheque	Instant	£5,000		5.00% Y	'y
nvestec Bank (UK)	0171 5974131	HICA 5000	None	25,000	4.75%	4.85% N	Ry
	F	EXED RATE	BONDS	3			
lalifær	01422 333333	Guaranteed Res	6 Month	£2,000	5.75%F	5.83% (M
lurthere flock	0845 6004466	Fixed Bate Bood	1.4.00	25,000			Ίy
Veoluich	0800 222200	Fixed Rate Bend	3 Year	£500 £2,500	5.25%F		ly
rizzeli Bank	0800 373191	Fixed Rates	4 Year	12,300	5.25%F	3.32%	72 Yly
		FIRST TE	SSAS				
ion Bank	01438 744505		5 Year	21,000			ly
egal & General Bank	0500 111200		5 Year	£3,000			Ŋ
rincipality BS	01222 344188		5 Year	£2,500 £3,000			ly ly
ambeth BS					0.10.2		· · ·
	F	OFTOM OV					
larclays Bank	0800 400100		5 Year	£3,000			y
ing Bank ngal & General Bank	01438 744505		5 Year	23,000			ty ty
waest BS	0800 220568		5 Year	\$9,000			ly
	O PECKY	DE ACCO	TAPTS (C	TDOSS)			
ortman Channel Islands		ORE ACCO	None	25.000		5.50% Y	N
eriman Channel Asianus rish Mationwide (10M)	01624 673373	International Inst		£25,000		3.00% Y	
lerthern Rock Gueruscy	01481 714600	Ottahore 30	90 Day	£25,000			y
rich Hationwide (1014)	01624 673373	International 90	90 Day	£50,000	6.65%	5.65% Y	y
	GUARANT	EED INCOM	ME BON	DS (NI	II)		
HG Lite	0800 393598		1 Year	£15,000	4.30%FN	Y	
qualrywide Assured	0800 838020		2 Year 3 Year	£10,000 £10,000	4.10%FN 4.15%FN	Y	
Countrywide Assured Austrywide Assured	0800 838020 0800 838020		4 Year	210,000			y
	ATIONAL S	SAVINGS A	CCOUN 1 Month	TS (GR	OSS) 3.85%	Y	
EVESTIMENT ACCOUNTS			1 Mortos	£500	3.80%	Y	
				£2,500	3.90%	Y	
				25,000	4.00%	Y	
S				£10,000		Y	•
				£25,000 £50,000	4.45%	Y	
toour oning I do!	1/00		3 Month	\$2,000	4.95%		y y
COME BONDS WAL 10/4	444			£25,000	5.20%	М	ý
APITAL BONDS Series P			5 Year	€100	4.65%F		M
RST OPTION BONDS			12 Month	£1,000	4.65%F	- Y1	
	MACHIE PARK	Carles 0	5 Year	£20,000 £500	4.65%F	M	_
EMSIONERS QUARANTEE		30(R) 3	5 Year	£100	3.50%F	Ö	
ONE ISSUE (tax free) STH INDEX-LODGED (tax f	reel	<u> </u>	5 Year	2100	1.65%F+		
					inflation		
HILDREN'S BOILD ISSUE N	(tax tree)		5 Year	225	4.65%F	O	M
					•		
ER=Annual Equivalent Bat	e. B=Operated by	post and telephone. i	F=Fixed rate (all other rate	ल कर प्रवास	de). N=Ne	t rate.
	D. Outsmitted burn	wat TwOrarated (#	TRIBODODE, AU		a w creater		5CE.
ease check all rates and ter	zna before investin	g. All rates texcept G	currenteed inc	ume Bonds)	aro 300m2 g	, USS.	
igeres compiled on: 28th 1	Karch 1999					e: Mone	yFac

Source: Stand	lard & Poo	rs/Micropa	-10 94 95 96
CRIH	CALIL	INESS (COVER
For a sum		000 tor a term o	
MEN		MOWER	
Guardian	12.00	Pegasus	12.07
Personal : 1000	12.92	Scottist: Pro	
Legal &Beneral	13.00	Personnel	14.21
SwissLife	16.19	ANY 25 Langual & Green	17.00
Geardian Personnet	18.20	Scattish Pro- Swiss Life	victoret 17.17 17.78
Legal & Semeral	18.50	Canada Life	
Smiss Life	25,72	Scottish Pro-	Ment 23.20
Permanent Legal & Sement	27.16 27.40	Pensons '	23.52
Scottish Prevident	27.59	Legal & See Canada Life	
Scottish Provident	40 16	ALE 45 Scottisk Pro	vident 31.35
Seiss Life	40.48	Zarick Life	31.57
Canada Life Guardian	43.40	Canada Life BBPA	34.40 38.58
ARE EE Scottists Provident	58.98	AUS SE Zurich Life	43.99
Canada Life	61.80	Scottish Pro	7-1-0
Swiss Life	52.11 75.90	Canada Life CGB Life	48.20 58.25
000.20	10.00		
			: Term Direct
COMPULSO	RY PUR	CHASE.	ANNUTTIES
£100,000 purch	ase, guaranteed LEV		thly in advance
1	SINGL	E LIFE	
Legal & General	7,879	8,773	10,182
Canada Life Priesds Provident	7,763 7,570	8,764 8,756	10,125
	PEHALE 65	FEMALE S	5 FEMALE 70
Canada Life Prientis Provident	7,247 6,918	8,063 7,722	
Equitible Life	8,968	7,678	
JOINT L	MALE SO	IDOW'S BI	MALE 78
Canada Life	6,747	7,359	8,209
Equitable Life Norwich Union	6,605 6,496	7,170 7,080	7,954 7,902
1	NDEX-I	LINKED E LIFE	
Predestial	5,789	NALE 85 8,759	MALE TO 8,057
Sun Life	5,544	6,718	8,305
Standard Life	5,520 FEMALE 80	6,636	8,100
Prudentiai Equitable Life	5,092 4,939	5,788 5,673	8,859 6,697
Canada Life	4,780	5,628	6,822
JOINT L	MALE ED	IDOW'S BE	MALE TO
Predestial	4,687	5,272	6,039
Equitable Life	4,554	5,149	5,955
Son Life	4.170	4,944 Source: Ar	5,897 muity Direct
	RPORAT		
COMPAUT FORE	TARRET TIELD, %	-	CHARGE ANNUAL FEE, W
Perpetaal Mility Abertices Fixed		VM 3.2	
Francington Europ		L/M 3,7	5 1.00 1.25
M&G High : Setroders High :		L NE	1.25
Japiter Corp	Band 6.54	N/A 4.0	0.50
Legal & Bes Corp		L NB	0.50
Fidelity Mone		L NE	0.70
	ust 5.96 (ield 8.87	L NA 2.25	0,70

Source: Baronsworth Investment Services

	FIXED RA	TES -	- WITE		TI RE	DEMPT	ONT	IE-IN BENEMPTICK	
lationaride BS	0800 302010			MAS LIV	£95			PENALTY	
SUCCESSION DO	0000 302010	2.39%	2 years	90%	135	Referred of value No MEP	dan teg.	1st 2yrs 4/3 i	ngaths wherest
anheth	0645 909192	4,94%	1.4.02	95%	£295	Holiday Vouche	r - min £100	To 1.4.02	
imply Postal & B BS	D800 570800	5.34%	1704	75%	\$275	Free API 67-4	-1 570 4-4	- T T	
afWest Mits Serv		5.69%	1.7.D4 31.5.08		£295	Adv 1090%, not			To 31.5 00
						EMPTIO	N TIE-	IN	
carbornout BS	0800 216121		3 years	90%	£295 £295	~		To 1.5 04:5% (
orthorn Rock	0845 6050500		VO.3.10	95%	£395	Free A for 6 mg	nths		of sum repaid.
						& advs up to 90	% No MP		
at Markage	0800 08068	5.25%	31.3.04	90%	1295	<u>·</u>		To 31.3.06	
			CAP	PED	RAT	ES			
unheth Simply autey Econ BS	0845 909192		1.6.81	95%	£295	Holiday Vouche	0012 atm -	1st 5yrs : 5% c	
carbersogh BS	01782 255150 0990 133149	5.65%	31.1.02 4 years	95%	£295 £295	-		1st 4 yrs. 5% c	
othern Rock	0845 F050500	5.99%	1.B.D4	95%	£385	Fine ASU (Graft	s),90%noMF		
177	RSTTIME	RIT	ERS C	VAD	IARI	FINTE	SC CIL	OWN	
ostwich 1.7	0345 454546		1 year		£100	2.5% advances		-	
	0000 400 : 1	4 605				to 90% no MAP			
chem Rock	0990 133149	4.20%	3 years 1.6.02	95%	:	£300 cash reba		1st 5 years: 8.0	17% of SR 1st 6yrs
lance & Leiestr	0345 108108		5years	95%	£195	Adv upto 909		1st 6 years . 9	
	37/	DIAL	or e Di	(CCC	NI INT	TED RAT	TC C		
arborough BS	0990 133149		יעניטענ 1 year	95%	£250	I EIN WAI	C3	1st 5yrs:8.29%	of sum renaid
orthern Rock BS	0845 6050500		01.6.01	95%	£250	Graths tree ASU,	to 90% no M	P1st 6 years, 3-5	
est Brownich 6S	0121 5806404	4.45%	3 years	85%	€295	Free MIP & free		1st 5 yrs: 5% o	sum repaid
chinghosotire	01753 482100	5.45%	5 years	80%	2100	ASU for 1 year		1st 5 years	
- Unemployment in rates subject to ch	surance, MIP=k unge without not z 29th March 19	ice. Pleas	ndenmity se check all	rates t	m, sefore bo	crowing.	Sour	ce: Money	
U=Accident, sicke Unemployment in rates subject to ch gures compiled or	strance, MIP - k unge without not a 29th March 19	dortgage i ice. Pleas	BOR	RO	m, perfore bo	s RATE	Sour	ce: Money	
- Unemployment in rates subject to ch	surance, MIP=k unge without not z 29th March 19	dortgage i ice. Pleas	BOR	RO	m, perfore bo	s RATE	Sour	ce: Money	
Unemployment in rates subject to ch gures compiled or	surance, MIP=h usings without not in 29th March 19 UNSEC	JOST CUR	BOR ED 1	RO PER	n, perfore bo	RATE	Sour	ve: Money	
Unemployment in rates subject to ch gares compiled or rates recognized or rates recogn	urrance, MIP=N senge without not to 29th March 19 UNSEC APE 0845 6050808 0845 6006016	CUR FUESD MON 9.3% H 11.0%	BOR ED]	ROY PER ent on ith insurant in	MANUAL RESORTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	RATE NAL I S YEARS 181.67 182.39	Sour	VS cs £164.19	
Unemployment in rates subject to ch gares compiled or there Reck	urrance, MIP = Numerical MIP = Numerical MIP = Numerical Miscreti 19 UNSEC APE 0845 6050808	CUR FUESD MON 9.3% H 11.0%	BOR ED]	RO PEH	MANUAL RESORTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER	RATE NAL I STEARS 181.67 182.39	Sour S.OAI	VS 26 £164.19 28 £162.68	
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BUSINESS REVIEW

THE INDEPENDENT 31 March 1999

Head of Administration & Logistics





Natural 🕳 Environment

Research

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is a component Institute of the Natural Environment Research Council. We are currently looking for a new Head of Administration & Logistics for our headquarters in Cambridge. To undertake its research mission, BAS employs over 425 scientists and support staff, and operates two research vessels and alreraft of Antarctic capability.

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demonstrate high quality personnel management skills, and be able to undertake operational planning and strategy in support of Antarctic research activities. If you can make crucial decisions that will influence future strategy and provision of logistics in support of long-distance research activities, then BAS welcomes your application.

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BAS would expect you to take up the post in the late summer of 1999. The nature of this role normally involves visits to Antarctica,

For further details and an application form, please contact Katie Boreham, Personnel Officer, Natural Environment Research Council, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1EU. Tel: 01793 411542. Fax: 01793 411585. E-mail: ceb@nerc.ac.uk The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 16 April.

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YOU CAN'T help but be grateful to whoever came up with the concept of stress. It's surely one of the finest inventions of our times. Can you imagine a bunch of medieval peasants throwing down their shovels and pitchforks and announcing they were suffering from burnout?

Of course, people had lower expectations then. As far as they were concerned there were only three things you could be: alive, dying or dead. But mere existence isn't good enough for us anymore; we expect to be amazingly well all the time, and if we're not we do

bonus money that's about to turnble into our bank account," said Jane once she'd sorted out the problems with her boss. "See if you can take one of the weeks with Easter in it." I laughed.

Didn't she realise they would have been booked up months in advance? But she just laughed right back and told me not to be naive. "Only senior managers dare to book time off at Easter or Christmas," she said. "No one else will because they think it doesn't look keen enough.

Luckily, she was right and now something about it. "We need a holiday. Let's spend some of that race of our villa, looking down over

Kingston and drinking Blue Mountain coffee. Quite how Jane managed to pull off a booking at such short notice, I'm not sure.

"Last-minute cancellation," she says. "Supermodel stubbed her toe and couldn't travel. Something like that, anyway."

Bad luck for her brilliant for us. Strawberry Hill is the sort of place that's written up in the glossy magazines with breathless reverence. and is even nicer in the flesh than in the photographs. It seems an esult to call it a botel

The villas are so submerged in greenery and gardens that half the time you feel you're the only



THE TRADER

It's good to have a City job - lots of money, but no one knows who you are people around. "Just as well, real-iy," Jane says. "I feel a bit square compared to some of the other

She's referring, I think, to the couple we saw as we arrived: him with goatee and crochet skullcap. her with long blue hair and a nose stud. They just had to be stressedout music business executives. Do you think we seem as strange to them as they do to us?" I asked Jane, but from the way he was whispering to her and looking in

our direction with an "I am not looking in your direction" expression on his face I had my answer. Otherwise, we haven't really ourselves away from our villa, presumably they all feel the same, particularly the famous ones.

Even better, I've realised it's the first holiday in ages where there hasn't been an off-duty futures trader with a hyperactive mobile on the next balcony. Money talks, but some of it talks quieter than the

"It's at times like this," I say to Jane as we sip our drinks, "that you appreciate having a City job. Lots of money, but no one knows who you are. I'd hate to be a celebrity and have my picture in the tabloids

seen many of the other people every time I so much as sneezed." staying here. If we can hardly drag Jane agrees with me on that one and then tells me she's hungry and we should have dinner.

We find ourselves on the table next to the music-business couple who are vaguely looking in my direction. Suddenly he starts and nearly drops his drink, and I can hear him say, "It is, I tell you, it is." He stands and comes over shyly to our table. "I'm sorry to bother you." he says, "but there's this column in The Independent called 'The Trader'... I'm a big fan. Your profile... you look just like her. Are you?" And I blushed and said yes. Well, it's nice to be recognised, isn't it?

Fat Cats can be key to success

BY JON MOYNIHAN

EACH YEAR, as the annual reports begin to roll in, the "Fat Cat" compensation debate starts again, At PA Consulting, we believe this issue suffers from confusion between two questions:

Is there an optimal form of compensation scheme for top management that will maximise value for shareholders? n "efficiency" question.)

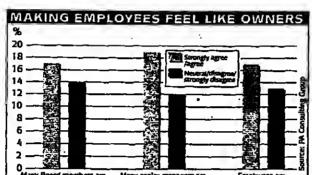
If top management receives enormous payouts as a result of the compensation scheme, is that necessarily a bad thing? (A

fustice" question.) We believe - based on client experience and extensive research - that shareholders should ensure their companies operate a top management compensation scheme that is efficient and just.

The Efficiency Question What is the optimal top management compensation plan? Overthe past year, PA has conducted surveys in 11 countries to undiver the characteristics

levels of shareholder value. The first finding was that our veyed companies had widely different levels of shareholderreturns over several years. We reached an unexpected conclusion. The most important factor associated with superior shareholder returns, was whether the

egen K



company adopted a "Managing for Shareholder Value" (MSV) approach to its top management compensation policies. The chart (above) shows that the average company which follows an MSV approach to its top management compensation has more than 6 percentage points of additional shareholder return, compared to the company that does not

The chart also reveals that fewer than 1 in 10 companies follow such an approach. This finding is consistent across all our surveyed countries - with the exception of the US, where of companies which create top it is still less than one in four

The impact of the correct compensation approach across our surveyed countries -is enormous. The average annual shareholder returns of the company that embraces best practice in this area is almost 20 per cent a year, versus

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companies who reject that Over 10 years, an investor putting £10,000 into a basket of companies following the right approach would see a return of similar amount into compa-

nies following the opposite approach would get £34,000.

Managers of institutional investment funds are considered superstars if they can beat the market annually by two or three percentage points a year, Institutional investors need to build a "Code of Compensation Conduct" that ensures their company follows that approach. For example:

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nior positions, relative to what is paid in the industry. We found the impact on share price of paying high versus low salaries was three percentage points of shareholder return per ear - an enormous amount.

Ensure bonuses are contingent on shareholder results. The more top management interests can be aligned with those of shareholders, the more likely it is that shareholder returns will be maximised. Incentive programmes should focus on factors directly under the individual's control (value drivers), rather than on the overall share price. But the company should identify what £50,000. An investor who put a management actions lead to share-price maximisation.

The recent wave of companies which reward managers on a measure of "profits minus a charge for capital" has led to enormous improvements in shareholder value, optimising profits and use of capital. Ensure the company re-

views its salaries against an an-

nual . industry-specific "pay survey. Investors should know whether this step is taken and Ensure the company pays what is done with the output. . non-executive directors in Ensure a percentage of annual bonus is paid in long-term handcuffed shares. This will build a class of managers who have a large shareholding in the company, and strongly motivated to ensure the share price



Jon Moynihan has found that lower top salaries and performance bonuses can benefit shareholders too

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companies draw anger when newspapers run stories decrying the large amounts earned. We should care if a manager earns a large package when sbareholders see a poor return. But if shareholders have

done well (and the national eco-

nomic "cake" has expanded), is share price. "Fat Cat" executives it wrong if managers also receive spectacularly large compensation packages? Capitalism 's underpinning of companies owned via shares traded on stock exchanges, is a successful mechanism for increasing economic value and benefit, for

the benefit of a country. a compensation programme that has a strong potential upside for its executives, it is less likely to create value for shareholders. The reason is probably that insufficient incentives exist for managers to take the difficult but valuable decisions that increase

of large companies are not in need of particular protection. Most probably they will continue to earn large remmeration packages for some time, whatever the degree of outrage. But some aspects of these

compensation packages are important if we are to have flourishing publicly owned companies, even if other aspects. such as high fixed salaries, are counterproductive.

Jon Moynihan is executive chairman of PA Consulting, the management and technology consultancy.

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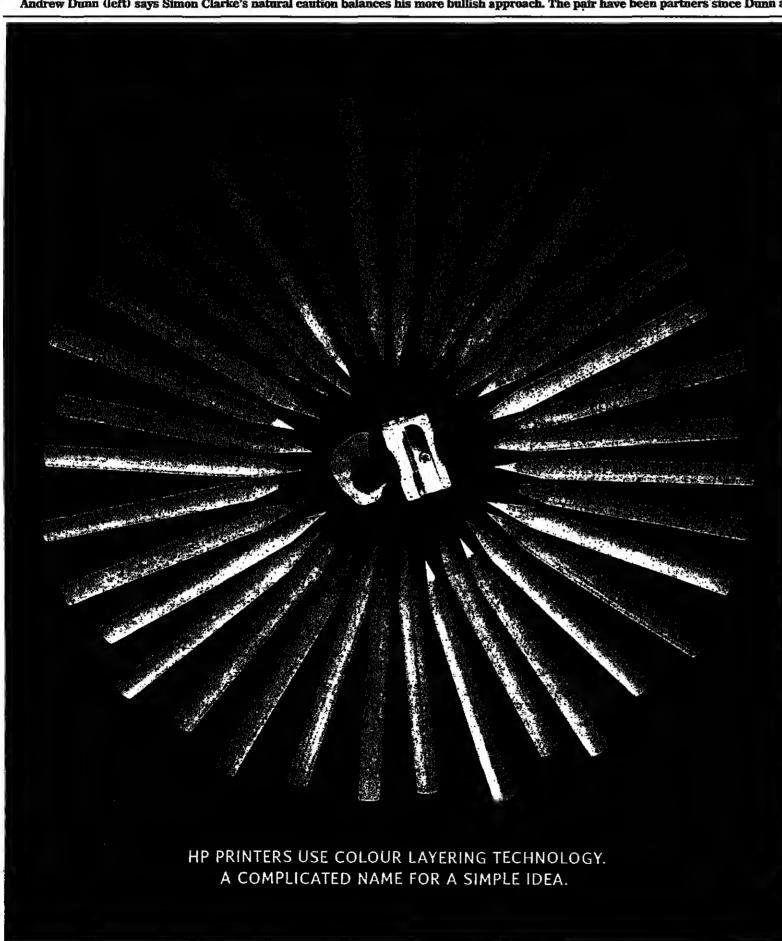
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ME AND MY PARTNER



Andrew Dunn (left) says Simon Clarke's natural caution balances his more bullish approach. The pair have been partners since Dunn asked Clarke to look at his accounts, which were in a 'shocking state' Mark Chilvers



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had been skiing before university and thought I would like to set up a ski company. I went to college and everybody laughed at me. But I am an obstinate person and it was blatantly obvious it could be done better. Back then, chalet holidays were completely different. I was 22 and highly motivated, and the first year of business was pretty exciting, but there was a relatively steep learning curve. I spent a year researching it all: I went to the Alps and did surveys on three different-sized companies. I found out people's likes and dis-likes to pinpoint what they wanted on a boliday.

I distinctly remember meeting Simon when he arrived to see his sister, who happened to be working for us. He had driven out to the Alps in a black TVR car. I have always been counts were in a shocking state. I said to Simon "Can you take a look and prepare the books for the auditors?" He realised it was a little bit more than just a run-through. He said "Listen, one way is to join you and invest in the business." That's exactly what he did, and became the full-time finance director.

At the time, every brochure had some pretty blonde girl on the cover. We said, how are we going to be different? We did a totally black brochure, and that immediately got us noticed.

We had a loyal clientele, but we realised we had to expand if we were to have a good living. We've ended up with the cream of the ski resorts and some of the best properties. My grandmother taught me that you should always buy the most expensive, because generally it's going to be the best. There are some little things we have always done when nobody else would go to such lengths. It's the fluffy bathrobes and the postcards which are there in your room, the toiletries in your bathroom and the bottle of water on your table. Our greatest asset is our staff. We now have 14 in Lon-

don and 57 overses We got hit hard during the recession, and kept thinking, how the can we if into the own pockets? Then we took on board a whole new series of shareholders, from bankers to barristers. We weren't going to fail through lack of effort. I would take it as a personal insult if someone said they had had a bad holiday. I would be devastated

Our non-executive chairman and I have always been the builish ones, but Simon was confident we would get through the difficult times. Simon always sits and listens, and then comments. I will talk confinually without necessarily having thought of every aspect or eventuality. He is naturally the cautious partner

We have never advertised have to make sure every single holiday is excellent. It has always amazed me bow travel companies would send out let-

to hand-sign every letter. Also, were no memos, and we could Simon and I know everything that goes on in the office, which is open-plan. It's important that you can overhear what people are saying.

My role is increasingly managerial, taking an overview of products. Competition in the travel industry is fierce, but no one is really doing cooks and nannies. We are transferring the Alps to the summer, and that's hugely exciting. You want to be with your children, hut could achieve. He has the enerequally you want to read a book by the pool or play tennis. We have never fallen out. I

am more bot-beaded and be would never lose his temper. I think be chose to work with me because be saw the possibility of being part of something which could grow and be successful, to which be could contribute - a chance for him to make his mark. I have infinite might well have been very sucgood at running the business trust in Simon, and you know

> MOM When I met Andrew, I was working in the City: my father had set up an optical business, and myself and my hrothers were to be drawn into it. But in 1989, the business was bought by Boots. I was working as an auditor and knew it wasn't really

My grandmother taught me that you should always buy the most expensive. because it's generally going to be the best'

what I wanted, though it was nice to see how other companies worked.

Andrew is a brilliant front man, hut I think it was getting a bit lonely. Some of the backroom books and processes were being neglected. That's my strength, and I decided to go straight into it. I thought it was an opportunity I couldn't miss. I knew Andrew pretty well - my sister and I shared a house and after that first ski season. we got talking. It was an exciting business to be in, and Andrew was very enthusiastic, very inquisitive, and doesn't mind asking anyone a question, even if it's an incredibly stupid question. He's always getting knowledge from people and finding out how things work, then he stores that information away. Years ago, when be was up in Scotland with friends, they nicknamed him "Harry Keen". Lots of people know

been the buzzy one. One of the first things I did on arrival was to say that the company cars had to go. Until you actually look from afar at a business, you can't see these litthe company: word-of-mouth is far better, and that is why we we try and get value for money.

him as Harry now. He's always

The great thing we had, in a small company, was to be able ters which would say, "Dear and implement it. I loved that in-

NDREW DUNN: I Client". In the early days, I used formality and flexibility. There react very quickly. When we set up, there weren't many regulatory barriers, and a lot of people were setting up so they could go skiing and perhaps make a few bob. Andrew already had a longterm view. He was the first to sacrifice his holidays to get the company going. He loves skiing more than anything but that wasn't his intention in setting up. He had the vision, and we both had the same idea of what we gy, and I follow in his footsteps and back him up with a hit of

> We could have blossomed very quickly, but we both agree that it is still a niche market, and we bave controlled it. We know most of the people who ski with us.

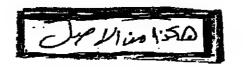
Andrew would take on a le more and some of those things cessful, but I am always a little might have one good year, but if a downturn comes, you need spare capacity. I have instilled in Andrew that every single bed is not just a guest - it's money. We have paid for every apartment, so we must get some money for that bed, even if it means discounting. Andrew was very much the gentleman travel agent, and wouldn't discount because it meant somebody in a chalet might have paid more. That's a smashing principle, but economically it's just not viable. Now, he's understood that point and will do everything in his power to

make sure every bed is sold.
One of Andrew's strengths is that he listens to people. We have a very fluid office; we go out for drinks together and Andrew and I will empty bins and clean the kitchen, so I think our staff respect us for that. We don't have an us-them relationship. In the last year, we've started to take on different roles. We have come to the point where we have to be much more leader-managers. There are things that happen now that we don't know about, and we're having to move up the ladder somewhat

I am still cautious: we can work very hard and get everything super but if there's no snow, it's disappointing for us and for the guests. I hate have ing that element out of control. Being an account I'm neat and tidy, ever neganhe, and I like things to be fin ished off in numbers and

projects. Andrew has been waiting to buy and build chalets for severa years, but I have always held off. We are not builders - our strength is running halidays, and I don't think we should be pulled away from that I am keen to concentrate on what we do best. He says it would put a lot of value into the business, but I am risk-averse. We have got a nice lifestyle and we are selling good holidays. My motiva tion is not to grow number drastically and sit on a £20m company. Andrew might be a little bit more motivated by get-

ting a conglomerate going. INTERVIEWS BY RACHELLE THACKRAY



VEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY











Hell is other people

This estate in Bradford is on the up and up, says the local council. The police are 'cock-a-hoop'. Better still, on April Fools' Day, Jack Straw's new measures will be introduced to outlaw difficult neighbours. Try telling that to the residents with smashed windows and burning trees in the garden

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1980s and the pair

mention except

really know what to expect. I knew that schiffe, not talking it down." it used to be twinned with a place was no longer the case. Jack Straw came here a year or so ago and promised better. Much better. Just as in the song. He is declaring war on neighbours from hell. No long were crime, litter, spitting and antisocial behaver to be tolerated. If the police didn't arrest

some e, then he just might.
In set, the Revolution was on the way, and it would by here. Well, this week sees a key date in said volution, though it is a trifle unfortunate that it ilso April Fools' Day. This is when Anti-Social Baylour Orders, also known as Asbos, are to be brout in. These are aimed at outlawing neigh-bours frobell or, as the Home Secretary has put it, town torists. The idea is that the council or police will by for the orders against anyone aged i prover to is engaged in routine intimidation of harassint. Professional witnesses can be used to pretye victims' anonymity.

The orderike an injunction, but if you are found to be a heart of the prety in the profession of the

to be in breafof it you can be sent to jail for up to five years. Cibertarians are suspicious, but then they may note next to a bullying horror whose idea of him is rowing humps of concrete about.

People in Rayschiffe do. Or so I had read.

I wanted to be a company to the world it.

I wanted tolk to some families but thought it fair to call on co-filors and community groups first. They were all hed on good news. "I hope you are not going to be pative," said one after the other. "Things are my better. Things have turned round." Did I knobout the Tenancy Enforcement Team? Did I rea there was a new lettings policy? At the month minumity meeting on the 1,500house estate the iceman was so upbeat that a Who burglaries a dand now there were five a bourhood. It occurs to me that we have all come to

had never been to the Ravenscliffe month. "I'm sorry, but I am cock-a-hoop," he see Neighbours from Hell as something that is a bit whole streetful of people? And what about reprisals? estate in north Bradford and so I didn't crowed. "It is time that we started talking up Raven-

I left, and couldn't help but notice that there was called Notorious, but was told that that a man whose entire job was to watch our cars while we were at the meeting. The main avenue is wide and lined with two- and three-bedroom semieveryone that things were going to get detached houses. They were built in the Twenties of good materials. Most look in decent repair. They have largish gardens. I saw a "for sale" sign. There's a chippie and a corner shop. It didn't look too bad.

I turned off, on my way to meet the first family. Here the rubbish is everywhere, and shocking. It fills gardens and spills on to pavements. In some gardens you cannot see green for the layers of old clothes, food wrappers, boxes, papers, nappies. Ripped bin-bags and bits of rubbish hang from trees as if taking part in some sort of grotesque urban spring. A long-time resident would later tell me that the technical term for all of this was "shit tip". "It's an old English expression," she said, and laughed as I wrote it down.

Many of the houses are empty, with boards for windows. There is graffiti, and a general decay that makes those houses where people have attempted a flower bed or two look all the more pathetic. Suddenly the air is full of smoke and I see that one of the front gardens is ablaze. It is dusk and some boys are running around. They tell me they are burning rubbish hut I can see that one is holding a bow saw and another is trying to hide a freshly cut pine sapling behind his back. I drive by several times in the next few hours. Sometimes the flames leap into the night, sometimes they shrink to campfire size.

I am told this is normal behaviour. It takes a long time to find the street and, as I park, I am aware that this could be the last time I see my car. Normally I never think of such things, but this is hardly normal. Perhaps it is the smell of smoke mixed with rubbish, or the children fitting song and dance role seemed sure to follow Crime round as if they were extras in Lord of the Plies. as down, down, m, he said. There used to be Perhaps it is the estiness of a half-empty neigh-

entertaining Certainly on television they all seem locked in hudicrous battles involving hedges or fences or some bit of concrete. But this is no Bernard Ingham escapade. This place feels threatening and alien. Here someone else is in charge.

Marcia and Mike have one of those front rooms in which everything matches. The carpet is plush, the sofas are squidgy. The ornaments are arranged just so. The family photographs are in silver frames and displayed at careful angles. The room is a picture of order. The people in it are not. Marcia and Mike and their children are at the end of their own particular spiral of despair. They have been burgled 11 times and are now too afraid to leave the house for a holiday. They live amid constant intimidation

BY ANN TRENEMAN

though they will not tell me specifics, because they are scared of being identified. I am not using their real names, but they are still afraid. When I ask their daughter what she thinks, she starts to cry and says she hates it; no one will come to her house to play.

They explain that they are normal, respectable, working people and that they feel trapped in a street where most people are not. "We're honest. We work an honest living, don't we? We pay our way," says Marcia. They have lived here for at least a decade and the big problem is that they bought their council house. They are now desperate to sell, but who would buy here? Anywhere else, their house would be worth £40,000.

They see themselves as having two options. One would be to walk away. They did try to give the keys back to the building society after the worst burglary. But voluntary repossession would mean they could not get another mortgage. The second option would be to sell to a property management company. They did approach one; it offered them £15,000.

For now, they are stumbling on. I mention Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and they look at me strangely. How could Orders be brought against a

Even if they moved them off, they would know where to find us," they say. No one has talked to them about using the Orders. I say that they could have professional witnesses. They say that it would be obvious who had complained. They are too afraid and too exhausted. Marcia says she has been on antidepressant tablets for six months and has no plans to come off them. Both see the only answer as the council buying their bouse so that they can go away and start a new life.

I am surprised that my car is still there. Next stop is the home of Cathy and Dave. They, too, are the odd ones out on their street. They have had a brick through the window, air pellets, half a dozen bur-glaries, and sleepless nights. There are always kids running around, even at 2am. Lumps of concrete appear in the drive. Their home is immaculate but it is also a fortress. Their dog is wearing a muzzle. "It's infimidation more than anything. When we leave, we know we've been seen," she says. They stagger their schedule. They believe they are always being observed and so sometimes, just to keep these people guessing, Cathy or Dave will drive while the other hides in the back seat.

They have nothing but praise for their MP Terry Rooney, the police and the Tenancy Enforcement Team, though they say that none of these has given them any results. They say that the police are much like me: they sit in the family's front room, commiserating but unable to relax because they are worried about their cars.

Cathy: It's a nightmare here. Dave: I can't invite anybody to this house. The only people who will come are good friends and brave friends. You can't invite people here. It's awful. We are trapped.

Cathy: We are not ashamed of our house. We worked to pay for this and keep it decent. Dave: Our problem is getting anyone into the

Cathy: ...without a brick being thrown

seem feisty. "They bloody aren't going to get me down, that's why," says Cathy. I mention Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and she says that she was told she would have to sign an affidavit and stand up in court. I said that that wasn't the case (though the Home Office, when I rang them, could not tell me exactly what was the case). Cathy says that whatever happened, other intimidating types would just take the place of the current offenders. Plus, every one would know who had complained. Cathy and Dave want the council to buy them out. They say that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders may look good

on paper, but this is reality. The next day I meet a group of women who run the advice centre and put on a weekly lunch for people on the estate who otherwise would never get out. They believe that the Orders are the work of Big Brother. Anyway, they don't see why people should let others bully them or push them about. "If you seem frightened, that's when they take advantage," says Pat Quirk, who has lived her: since 1963. The conversation swirls around various subjects: the police attitude to paedophiles, tire fact that someone on the estate has a horse in their garden, the lack of bin-liners. The local housing ofcer. Jim Steward, notes that what looks simple in Westminster, in the real situation becomes linked to all these subjects and more.

I fear the Revolution is on shaky ground here. but at last I meet a man named Jim who lives on a different street with a different attitude. He is honcful, and thinks the Orders could really work. Most of the people on this street are good neighbours. he says, but there are one or two who aren't One man in particular has a foul temper and occasionally explodes in a window-smashing frenzy. The next time that happens, he just might find himself the subject of an Order

Suddenly, in this house with no fear, I can see how the Orders could work. But that is when the bar: neighbour is the odd one out. How can they possibly be used to reclaim streets where neighbours from As home-owners, they are trapped; but they also hell are in the vast majority?

eaders and comment

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Kosovo: heading for a new catastrophe

Sir. Have you gone quite bonkers? ("Nato cannot delay sending m troops to protect Kosovo", 30 March.) How many months will it take to plan the occupation? Kosovo is landlocked. How do you get there? If you fight your way across Kosovo to establish your protectorate, who and what will be

How many casualties will you then accept from Tito's heirs. whose terrorist murders of our troops will make the IRA look like lily-livered jelly-babies? How will you handle Russian and other volunteers" who come to help them?

In any case, your excellent reporting from Kosovo shows that the atrocities are now led by Serb irregulars in ad hoc uniforms. Refugees talk of being driven out by knives, not tanks. Arkan is in Belgrade because the entire Serb population is determined to attack any Albanian they can find, They will delight in butchering our troops maintaining a protectorate. Nato has created a situation in which air power is useless.

Milosevic could not call off the Serb gangs even if he wanted to while Nato air attacks continue. He might or might not be able to do so if the attacks stop now. Nato has put him in a position of supreme authority.

Please engage your brain and think a little.
DEREK J COLE. Jesus College Cambridge

Sir: Many political figures, including Tony Blair, have gone to great lengths to stress to ordinary Yugoslav people that this war is not aimed at them but at Milosevic and his regime.

In 1995 after the UN withdrew from its protectorate role in southern Croatia, the world stood by as Croatia ethnically cleansed the Serbs from the Krajina region. Since 1991 Yugoslavia has been suffering under sanctions. The economic environment, partly a legacy of the old Communist system, made worse by the assimilation of refugees, destroyed by sanctions and beavily assisted by poor government, has created an environment where the hlack market, organised crime and paramilitary organisations thrive.

This atmosphere is not likely to spawn healthy democratic debate and a strong liberal opposition. This dreadful downward spiral is being made even worse by the hombardment, Despite this there remain a huge number of Yugoslavs who do not support the current regime. This was evident hy the mass demonstrations in all the major Yugoslav citles eighteen months ago Even the most broad-minded

pro-Western Yugoslavs must be having their patience tested. They are bewildered by suggestions that by homhing them a humanitarian catastrophe will be avoided. They believe they are living a humanitarian catastrophe already, which is about to get seriously worse, and that two wrongs don't make a right. For them this war is no longer about defeating Milosevic; it is now about defending their borneland from a foreign invasion. FRANCIS MAGUIRE London SW19

Sir: The fears expressed by the Chairman of the Macedonian Citizens in the UK (Letter 29 March) are real indeed. The KLA have as their aim the union of all Albanians of Serbia/Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania itself into a single state.

Tito allowed nearly half a million people to flee Albania and settle in Kosovo in the unheavals of 1948 when Yugoslavia broke with Stalin. This altered the demographic profile of the region dramatically. Corrupt Albanian officials abused the extensive autonomy granted in 1974 to carry out a campaign of intimidation to "encourage" the dwindling Serbian inhabitants to move north.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Ballet School No 3: The girls at the Davies Ballet School in Cardiff wrestle with the more difficult steps

Ann Doherty

But it's probably "unpatriotic" to point out any inconvenient historical details at such a moment of "national glory" BRIAN POCOCK London W6

Nato action is legal

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith (Comment, 29 March) and Ken Coates (letter, 29 March) are incorrect to say Nato's action against Yugoslavia is contrary to international law and the United **Nations Charter.**

Article 2(4) of the Charter is not a blanket prohibition on the use of force; rather it limits force to be used for purposes consistent with the UN Charter but does ban force with the purpose of undermining the territorial integrity and political independence of any state.

The purpose of the current use of force is not to undermine Yugoslavia, hut rather to ensure that its government adheres to international law and halts the genocide against the Kosovars. Customary international law in the area of the use of force was confirmed by the International Court of Justice as recently as 1986 (see the Nicaragua Case, merits stage, paragraph 176) and this does include the category of humanitarian intervention. International crimes such as genocide are not a matter of internal affairs and require international enforcement.

Had force been used to uphold international law in Bosnia at earlier stage, the events in Kosovo might never have taken place. JOHN STRAWSON Senior Lecturer in Law University of East London Dagenham, Essex

Sir: Although, there is broad support in this country for the air strikes, increasingly people are beginning to question the legality of action against a sovereign state and the consequence of military action upon the population in Kosovo. However, to say that we shouldn't intervene is to absolve

ourselves of a moral duty to protect victims who are beloless. It is morally incumbent upon those who have the power to stop an injustice, to exercise that power. In the same way that I would expect a bystander to intervene when a woman was being mugged on the Tube, I expect Nato to intervene. This principle transcends national boundaries; values like justice are universal; national boundaries change.

Those that believe that the air strikes have exacerbated the policy of ethnic cleansing are absolutely right. But the Serbs always intended to ethnically cleanse Kosovo, which they regard as the heart of their country. If Nato hadn't intervened then we would have had periodic massacres and forced expulsions, with Milosevic using all the diplomatic initiatives that would have followed to play for time.

The air strikes have sent a clear message to Serbia that we won't acquiesce in atrocities. It is to Nato's eternal credit that we have refused to let an evil unparalleled since the Nazis prevail. MOHMED HAJI London E8

UK Serbs in fear

Sir: Whatever view your readers have formed on the rights and wrongs of the Nato action against Yugoslavia, may I bring to their attention the anguish in which thousands of people in this country live whilst the bombs are falling?

Approximately 40,000 people of Serbian origin live in this country, many of whom are married to "ordinary" British citizens such as myself. Since the Nato operation started I have had less than twelve hours' sleep. My wife's immediate family lives in Belgrade, others in Uzice and Nis, names which feature in reports on the bombing

Hours are spent trying to telephone but the connections to Yugoslavia are almost non-existent After two days my sister-in-law managed to reach us to say that they are safe but that a cruise

missile had destroyed a telecommunications centre 200 vards from their flat, (Would the designers stake their lives on

bours filled with triumphant news reports of yet another successful mission or "unconfirmed" stories of atrocities to stir the nation's passions and reassure those who dare doubt, And still we wait. A plane is reported missing. If it is RAF will the nation's anger be vented on British Serbs, whipped up by a media intent on justifying this crusade?

In a war in which not a single shot will be heard in this country and possibly not a single British to tone down the jingoism? NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Redraw Balkan map

Sir: Instead of establishing a Nato protectorate, the West should try to build on the idea of partitioning Serbian nationalist circles for over a decade. The map could be drawn to

the Albanians would get most of the territory, the Serbs would get monasteries, while the others would be put under the UN protection. The working assumption should be that the Serbian part of Kosovo would Albania. The establishment of a Nato protectorate over Kosovo agreement could end the conflict RANDHIR SINGH BAINS

Gants Hill: Essex Sir: M Edwards (letter, 29 March) rightly questions whether the

their accuracy?) Now we wait for the next call, the

casualty, would it be too much ask

Kosovo, which has been floating in

balance advantages. For example, land containing some of medieval become an integral part of Serbia, while the Albanian part would join would only freeze, not resolve, the conflict. Only partition achieved by

concept of the sovereign or nation state has bad its day. What constitutes a feeling of nationhood is complex. It may be

service 30 years ago on 1 April. It having clearly defined topographical boundaries, or a was on time and within its £50m common language, or religion, or a development budget. By most standards, a service common history. Happy are those such as in these islands where life of more than 30 years is fairly these four factors largely coincide.

Unfortunately in much of Europe

Tony Blair should seize the

representatives of all European

countries including Russia could

Punish war crimes

President Milosevic under notice

that his behaviour to the Albanian

for war crimes. But the people of

Serbia who keep him in power

must bear some responsibility

community should act as the

Commonwealth did with South

Africa under apartheid and hit

refusing to play with them - in this case football and tennis, not

Sir: The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has pledged that all war

criminals in Kosovo will be hunted

down, arrested and brought before

Tribunal (report, 30 March). Whilst

I find this very commendable and

appropriate, I cannot but feel a

sense of déjà vu. I am of course

Bosnian butchers Radovan

MEHMET CENKTAS

RAF veteran

Sir: Hearing of the Harriers

that the aircraft first entered

savaging the Serbs reminds me

London N21

referring to the promise that the

Karadzic and Ratko Mladic were

also going to be bunted down and

brought to justice. Let's hope Mr

Cook is more successful this time.

the International War Crimes

them where it really hurts by

cricket and rugby.

Sudbury, Suffolk

Dame ALIX MEYNELL

Kosovans makes him liable to trial

I suggest that the international

initiative to establish a new

Congress of Vienna at which

review national boundaries.

Southam, Warwickshire

Sir: It is clearly right to put

this is not so.

BRIAN PARKYN

exceptional for front-line aircraft. All the more credit to John Fozard for the airframe design and to Stanley Hooker for its engine, to mention just two of many. Repeated improvements in the airframe, engine and electronics

fits have produced the aircraft which helped to win the Falklands war and which has taken part in more recent conflicts in its own unique way. Long may it continue. Air Marshal Sir REGINALD E W HARLAND Bury St Edmunds,

Insult from Blair

Sir: If only 1 per cent of the horror the Serbs are being reported as visiting on the Albanians is true it is outrageous. But what is also horrifying and outrageous is that the Serb response to the bombing was completely foreseeable. Do our leaders now expect us to believe that they are going to fly around picking off Serb tanks and platoons, and halting the atrocities that way.

Tony Blair's insistence (Parliamentary report, 30 March) that there is no causation between the bombing and the increase in Serb atrocities is an insult to the intelligence of all British men and STEVE JACKSON London W9

Tankbuster peril

Sir. Can we have assurances from the Government that the US A-10 Thunderbolts will not be using depleted uranium tipped shells to attack Serbian forces in Kosovo? Or are we to have a repeat of the bumanitarian catastropbe that has befallen the irradiated population of southern Iraq? DAVID EDWARDS Bournemouth,

puzzles me is that when people use

the word "bible" they always refer

to something which is as accurate

and compendious as you can get.

Wisden might be the cricketer's

hible, for instance. But this is the

exact opposite of what the real

Bible is about. There is nothing au-

thoritative about the Bible. The real

Bible is a bundle of myths, and half-

forgotten history, and scrambled

facts and fiction. The Old Testa-

ment is garbled history and the

New Testament is a series of con-

flicting stories about Jesus. The

A classic laureate

Sir: I understand that the choice of Poet Laureute will be made in April. It has been claimed that Derek Walcott is "in an older classical tradition, feared to be out of touch with fashionable poetic concerns". This rings an alarm bell for the future of our language.

The essence of fashion is that it is here today and gone tomorrow. Does this apply to the work of Tennyson? Is it "out of touch with poetic concerns" and the concerns and t laureates Hughes, Betjeman, poetic concerns" and therefore the public, to write of a new identity in the post-colonial world for those uprooted from their history, their anguage?

Perhaps it is unfashionable, in our present educational climate, to have imbued oneself, as Walcott has, with the "older classical tradition" from Homer through Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth,

There is surely no poet other than Walcott of such descreed international stature or who speaks with such relevance for Britain and the Commonwealth. It has been suggested that the literary academic world cannot accept that the best poet writing in the English language today is black. What a wasted opportunity if this unique concurrence should be

JILL DANIEL Bodmin, Cornwall

The Timor alert

Sir: It was Australian government inaction over the murder of Margaret Wilson's cousin Malcolm Rennie (letter, 29 March), and the four newsmen murdered with him, that was understood by Indonesian generals as Western approval for genocide as a "solution" to the "problem" of East Timor.

Indonesia's top generals informed the Australian government on 13 October 1975 that some 3,200 Indonesian troops would invade East Timor from West Timor on 16 October. Some 800 of those troops would go in via Balibo, the Australian government was told. It was at Balibo, on 16 October, that Malcolm and the others were killed.

The Australian government's latest report on these deaths was published in February 1999. As Ms Wilson's letter says, that report is both "limited in scope and flawed in execution". Equally serious, that report ignores the fact that the Australian government was warned of the attack.

British failure to act, now, over these deaths risks further genocide in East Timor from its illegal occupiers. **HUGH DOWSON** United Nations Association Western Region

Time for reform

Sir: I cannot be the only person who felt disorientated on Sunday morning after losing an hour's sleep, but who was grateful for the prospect of lighter evenings. Nevertheless, I feel that permanent British Summer Time would not be appropriate because of excessively long dark mornings in Scotland, and the loss of October's extra hour in bed would be hard to bear.

May I therefore suggest that the country adopts Greenwich Mean Time in the mornings, and BST in the afternoons? The clocks could go forward after lunch and back around 2am. This would reduce the working week (currently far too long for most people) and give everyone an extra hour in bed every night. Evenings would be lighter, and mornings not too dark in winter. Why has nobody thought of this before? JOHN PARKER London N3

Free press

Sir: The article describing the shenanigans at the press awards evening shocked me profoundly (Media, 30 March). How can I ge/ tickets for next year's event? RICHARD COLTART London SW18

God's recipe for squid, and other red herrings

I AM constantly being deluged with joined together by a little link letters from readers who are inletters from readers who are intrigued by the changes in meaning of the English language, and want to be kept up to date with new words and new definitions. Rather than make a fool of myself or confess ignorance. I prefer to enlist an expert, and that is why I have waited until Dr Wordsmith dropped in on his way to the pub. Or on his way back from the puh. Or en route from one puh to another It's hard to tell, sometimes. Anyway, here he is again, and so it's all yours. Dr Wordsmith!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I sometimes think how odd it is that there are everyday things which we never talk about because they have no name. For instance, when we buy a pair of men's socks, they are often

order to part the socks. As far as I know, that link has no name. There may well be a technical term used by bosiers, but it has not percolated down to common parlance. Dr Wordsmith writes: I seem to have missed the question. Is it something to do with socks?

No. I haven't come to it yet. Dr Wordsmith writes: Well, let me know when you have.

My question is really about sticky

plasters. When you are putting on a plaster, you first have to pull off two flaps to reveal the sticky ends. These two flaps are then discarded and they flutter to the floor while you get on with the serious business of putting the plaster on the right

place, though in fact they mostly seem to be imbued with static electricity and stick to your clothing... Dr Wordsmith writes: I'm sorry. What seem to be imbued with static electricity?

These things. These flaps that come off plasters. These plaster wings, or whatever they're called. That's exactly my point! They seem to have no name, that's why there are so many of them littered around bathroom floors! Nobody can say, Pick up those ... things, because nobody knows what they are called. Dr Wordsmith writes: I get your

Do they in fact have a name? Dr Wordsmith writes: I have no

point. And what is your question?



MILES KINGTON

'Leith's Fish Bible could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously

Dear Dr Wordsmith, I am intrigued by the role of religion in daily life. We are often told that religion means very little to most people No, I haven't come to it yet. What Dr Wordsmith writes: The you. these days, yet the phraseology of We talk about giving someone a

sermon, or preaching to someone -often to the converted! We say that our prayers have been answered, even when we haven't been praying. We talk about things being the bible of something, even if we've never read the Bible. For instance, Caroline Waldegrave and C.J. Jackson once wrote a book called Leith's Fish Bible, a very good book, but one which could only have been titled by someone who took religion not very seriously. I mean, did they imply that God appeared unto Mrs Waldegrave and spake unto her privily, telling her the best way to prepare souid? Dr Wordsmith writes: Is that your

phrase "the gospel truth" is an oxymoron. You can have the truth or the Gospel, but not both. Dr Wordsmith writes: Have we come to a question yet?

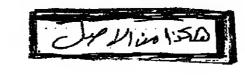
No. I was just letting off steam.

I hope you feel better. And i next!

Dear Dr Wordsmith, Theopression "letting off ateam" interesting, because most pelc alive today will not have se steam being let off, and yet therase is still current. Is therely word meaning, "a phrase wh has outlived its pictorial inspiion"? Dr Wordsmith write am sure there is.

Do you know what it? Dr Wordsmith writ I have not the faintest idea.

As the pubs are stilut, Dr Wordsmith will be with omorrow for a further session (ricographical wisdom. So kechese queries rolling in!



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A quartet of unions Athat do the teachers a great disservice

EACH EASTER we are greeted by daffodils, Easter eggs and a week of teachers' unions conferences. "The conferences have not always been the best advertisement for the profession," David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, has drily observed. And this year looks as if it will be as bad as ever.

Yesterday the a son was kicked off by the Association is set by the hattle than such issues improving the sta

The Limit den

of Teachers and I cturers (ATL). Immediately, the tone gainst performance-related pay rather raising standards in the classroom or s and authority of teachers. Is it any wonder that desi e - or indeed perhaps because of -

regular bouts of ion militancy, teachers have lost the support of so many parents and continue to fall behind other professionals in pay rates?

Unlike doctors or lawyers, teachers have never had a professional association. Instead, they are represented by four competing unions, of which the National Union of Teachers (NUT) is the worst. Its London-based male firebrands still regard the classroom as a factory for social engineering in ways that were unfashionable even in the Seventies. Doug McAvoy keeps the militants mostly in check (although even he could not stop delegates from jostling Mr Blunkett and his guide dog at their conference two years ago). But the NUT has set its face against performance-related pay on principle.

The National Association of School Masters Union of Women Teachers regards itself as the more professional face of teaching, representing as it does secondary school teachers. Nonetheless, Nigel de Gruchy's outfit has shown itself willing to take on the Government over conditions and pay. Although a strike ballot is scheduled, Mr de Gruchy is prepared to come to a compromise over performancerelated pay. For those teachers who find de Gruchy still too radical there is the ATL, as well as the Professional Association of Teachers which refuses to go on strike.

But these competing voices do not improve the wellbeing of those in the classroom. There are signs that this is starting to be seen. The unions have welcomed the Government's idea for a General Teaching Council, which would be set up on the lines of the General Medical Council, maintaining best practice and policing the profession.

Teachers, many of whom work long hours in difficult circumstances and for comparatively little reward, deserve better from their professional representatives. They need one professional association that can speak to the Government with the authority of unity, and which can address the public with the likelihood of getting sympathy for its cause. This is the most pressing battle that should to be ignored once again.



Don't ignore the other casualty of the bombs

THERE IS a sense of déjà vu about the ongoing mission of Yevgeny Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, to Belgrade. Before the Gulf war Mr Primakov visited his "old friend" Saddam Hussein to broker a peace deal with Iraq. Then as now, it would be impossible for the Western Allies to accept the aggressor's offer of a ceasefire. With Saddam it would have meant accepting his seizure of Kuwait. With Slobodan Milosevic, President of Yugoslavia, it would mean rewarding his ethnic terror in Kosovo.

However, this is no reason to denigrate Russian efforts to find peace. For not the least casualty of the air strikes is the co-operation on foreign policy and military matters be fought this week. Sadly, however, it is one that is likely which the West and the Russians have developed since the end of the Cold War.

A Pan-Slav campaign to defend the Serbs is unlikely. But the West should not ignore Russia's sense of betrayal. Russia accepted the eastward expansion of Nato and military co-operation with the West on the grounds that Nato was a defence alliance. The West is in danger of teaching a generation of Russians to distrust international co-operation.

The need for the West to be sympathetic to Russian's sense of hurt is strengthened by its partial responsibility for Russia's economic predicament. The decision to guide Russia from a command to a market economy was correct. But the means chosen were far too theoretical and the pace was far too fast. Western economists neglected to wait for Russia to develop the legal and social infrastructure that prevents capitalism degenerating into gangsterism.

In the short term, the West can afford to listen to Russia's roars with equanimity. Desoite its geographic size and large population, Russia's economy is smaller than Hol-

be dangerous to the West. It will increase the appeal of nationalist politicians, such as Vladimir Zhirinovsky, and those people within and close to the army who regret Russia's loss of status. Both groups will make the task of developing a liberal and democratic politics in Russia much more difficult.

A desire to build up the power of Russia could encourage the meddling in neighbouring states and arms trading which the West has tried to stop. Small countries with restive Muslim minorities - Armenia and Georgia, for instance - might become fearful of US intervention and want to tighten their borders with Russian weapons.

The outrage of the Russian people will die down once the Kosovo campaign is over. The man in the Moscow underground has only the vaguest idea about Mr Milosevic and the issues at the heart of the conflict. None the less, the West will have to struggle to reintegrate Russia land's. It needs its IMF loans too much to fight for Serbia. in international institutions. The IMF could begin that But in the longer term, Russia's sense of betrayal could process today by providing Russia with a generous loan.

Can Mr Blair really make war and peace at the same time?

THE ART of good government is the ously complex and not quite on mesability to do several things at once without the confusions and contradictions becoming too blatant or the party today, where Michael Foot is an seams of smart credibility tearing to expose the uncertainties of power. As the Good Friday anniversary approaches, Tony Blair confronts two crises that threaten to haunt the rest of his premiership.

Like Queen Mary, who had Calais dengraved on her heart, Mr Blair will have Belfast and Belgrade stamped on his. He must continue to hold public support for the peace in Northern Ireland when the auguries are grim. At the same time, he must stiffen support for bombing Serbia when the gains are looking unsure and public nerves are starting to jangle. Mongering peace and war at the same time is a draining combination.

The Northern Ireland peace process was always going to be an exercise in long-distance running. As the anniversary approaches, it is looking like a marathon with random hurdles and ditches inserted to test the spirit of the weary participants. At such times the Prime Minister's job is a lonely one, and especially so for Mr Blair. Northern Ireland and foreign policy have not, in the past few years, been the focus of Labour interest.

Grown unused to office, the party is content to wrap itself in the general pieties of pro-republicanism and some highly selective likes and dislikes about abroad: Pinochet bad, Mandela good, Northern Ireland civil rights activists good, Unionists bad.

Anyone who thought much further than that was deemed danger-

sage. The remnants of this intellectual laziness persist on the far left of the unbalanced apologist for Croatia, while Tony Benn considers the war against Serbia to be a US imperialist plot against a proud Slav nation.

Few of Mr Blair's cabinet colleagues have the experience or interest in Nato matters or Northern Ireland to be much use to him right now. Robin Cook has his hands full with a media war fighting an extraordinary degree of anti-Nsto bias in the BBC's reporting.

George Robertson is a dab hand at being pro-Nato, but he is overplaving it badly with references to Serb "genocide". Genocide is the attempted killing of an entire race. If Mr Robertson cannot convince us of the need for air strikes without inflating the Serbs' record of repression in Kosovo into a second Holocaust, we really are in trouble.

On the peace front, Mo Mowiam has fronted the peace process with aplomb, but suspicion has deepened among moderate Unionists that she errs too much towards letting Sinn Fein get away with not decommissioning arms.

For his part, Mr Straw stuck his nose in at exactly the wrong time by calling for judicial review of the release of four IRA prisoners who had been convicted in the English courts but failing to get their release stopped his first tactical blunder since taking office. Fortunately, Mr Blair was provident enough to squirrel away a senior member of staff for just such



ANNE **MCELVOY**

Like Queen Mary who had 'Calais' on her heart, the PM will have Belfast and Belgrade stamped on his

a testing time in the shape of Jonathan Powell, a former senior diplomat who is the link to Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff. and who also attends to the nuts and bolts of the Northern Ireland peace process. Quite how Mr Powell organises his week at the moment is beyond

It is tempting to say that there is a screaming contradiction between our tolerance of punishment beatings, our tolerance of low-intensity vio-lence, the selective interpretation of agreements in Northern Ireland - and our readiness to go into conflict with another power that behaves in similar ways

Indeed, a number of voices sceptical of the peace process, of involvement in Kosovo, or of both, have started to point this out. It is easy to

doing bombing Slobodan Milosevic's military installations while we are striving to keep terrorists at the negotiating table in Ireland?

But it is different. Obviously so, because Ulster is a province of the United Kingdom and thus unavoidably crumbling. The outstanding one is that London's problem, whereas we clearly had a choice about whether we intervene in the Balkans. Having embarked on the peace process - a measure which was popular with mainstream political opinion everywhere and which brought him his first international laureis as leader - Mr Blair is anxious to maintain any momentum he can muster, however ominously the studge of resistance and resentment thickens in both the Republican and the Unionists camps.

On Monday, the Irish leader Bertie Ahern and Mr Blair flew to Northern Ireland in an attempt to reach an

agreement on arms. The Prime Minister can hardly be encouraged by Gerry Adams' words in an Observer interview the day before: "Anyone who thinks I'm hardballing, negotiating, going down to the wire, is failing to understand that this Sinn Fein leadership cannot deliver

decommissioning." Releasing the location of a few buried bodies, the IRA's grisly idea of a positive gesture towards advancing the process is no compensation for some modest, verifiable display of weapons forfeit. Bodies are about the IRA's past behaviour, decommissioning is about its future.

One day, the paramilitaries may accept that the forfeit of arms is not to

summon up the outrage: what are we be equated with weakness. But that day is likely to be further away than Mr Blair believed this time last year.

The peace process consists of multiple bridges of ambiguity over which the various parties have so far tip-toed in order to keep the whole edifice from Sinn Fein never signed the Good Friday agreement, and thus cannot be bound by it. As Mr Adams pointed out, the parties are pledged only to use their "good offices and influence" to achieve decommissioning, and so cannot be censured if they do not actually deliver it.

If, on the other hand, the Government presses ahead with the creation of an all-party executive without any sign of a weapons handover, the Unionist leader David Trimble is in grave danger of suffering the same fate as his predecessor Brian Faulkner, toppled by his own party in 1974 because it was pushed too far by London to accept the Sunningdale agreement on power-sharing. To destabilise moderate Unionism, now

would be a grave miscalculation. The only ambiguity left to include is the wear isome one of extending the timetable for the creation of crossborder institutions and postpone the final accord. It is not war but it is far

from a stable peace either. Mr Blair faces two of the key challenges to peace in our time. If he fails in the Balkans, be will be accused of lacking caution. If Mr Blair fails in Ireland, he will be blamed - by each side - for not having been being brave enough. It is enough to make you wish

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Jews cannot celebrate Passover without protesting this genocide." Rabbi Michael Melchior, orthodox Jewish leader; speaking to the Yugoslav ambassador to Israel

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Love your neighbours, but don't pull down the fence." Chinese proverb

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD US opinion on the conviction of Dr Kevorkian for second-degree murder

Augusta Chronicle

particular is not particularly competency to decide to die he

citizens feel they need an complicated. This is a man organization with that name. who has aided in the deaths of who has aided in the deaths of many people whom he did not know and had not previously THE ISSUE of Dr Kevorkian in treated and whose mental

Dr Kevorkian has over the years - to be so energized by such morbid work. The Washington Post

was in no position to assess.

Whatever one thinks of assist-

ed suicide, there is something

demonic about a freelance

death peddler who seems - as

JACK KEVORKIAN accurately represents the face of assisted death. Until this verdict, it had been effectively legalized in this state. Once legalized, the

suffering of the ill by eliminating the sufferers themselves. It is to make sure pain is effectively relieved and to reassure patients that their wishes regarding end-of-life treatment - or non-treatment will be respected.

practice of assisting death, like

Dr Kevorkian himself, would

become increasingly uncon-

trollable. The job for the

medical and legal systems now

is not to seek ways to end the

BUT AT least Kevorkian had, in the right to kill patients for decshould not be up to the state to decide how much pain a person noust endure, how much hopeless struggle is enough, how much loss of function must be eccepted, how much dependpersonal choices. Fayetteville Obscrver Times

THE PRO-EUTHANASIA crowd lands where doctors have had sad that our most vulnerable

the beginning, a valid point: it ades. The elderly and disabled fear getting medical help be-cause they're not sure if they'll be cured or killed. Many have been put to death without any say in the matter. Is this where the US is headed? It is - espeency tolerated. Those are cially if Oregon-style laws are passed in other states. Already an interest group, made up mostly of disabled persons, has formed to fight the trend. should check out the Nether- It calls itself Not Dead Yet. How

PANDORA

AUSTRALIAN REPUBLICANS are so confident of winning the upcoming referendum and installing a president by 2001 that they've reserved part of Sydney Harbour for a big binge on 31 December. 2000. They're calling it Last Night of the Poms.

WHODATHUNKIT? According to a new survey by an American cleaning products manufacturer, Brits bave the smelliest bomes in Europe".

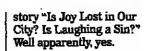
TORY BOY William Hague is scheduled to visit the luckless Lubyanka to brief staff at Express Newspapers next month. Normally he'd travel mob-handed with his perky new spin doctor, Amanda Platell. If she shows up, it could be another sticky encounter for Little Willy: Platell will be facing Rosie Boycott - the woman who fired her as editor of the Sunday Express less than three months ago.

CALL THE Daily Mail and get them to send a reporter to the Decima Gallery in London's Borough, pronto there's enough material there to fill the paper for a week. The gallery's new show, running until 18 April, is called Was Jesns a Homosexual? (Readers of a sensitive or overtly religious disposition are advised to move on to the next item now.)

Gilbert and George have installed part of a 100-yearold fountain they purchased recently, which featured the inscription "Jesus said if any man thirst let him come to me and let him drink". This now reads "Jesus said let him come". Another exhibitor. Piers Wardle, has made a crucifix with wooden balls attached by a "string that can be played with" and called it The Miracle of Holy Balls. Charles Sayer's canvas of a naked woman, legs apart, is displayed alongside eight framed biblical texts and entitled Anti-Christ I awake thee. The pièce de résistance is

Andrew Putland's untitled triptych depicting a black Jesus and black disciples engaged in fellatio with Christ. The show is tactfully set to open on 2 April - Good Friday.

THIS ISN'T funny. You're not to laugh. But the mad mullahs of Tehran have just banned a fortnightly magazine, called Ardineh. for running a



GOLD RECORDS? Platinum albums? They're history. The new criterion for rock success is the diamond disc. Artists have to shift 10 million copies of a single album to qualify; Neil Diamond doesn't, Pink Floyd do. One person unlikely to be losing sleep over this is the Sixties popster Jess Conrad, who uniquely managed three tracks on Kenny Everett's all-time camp classic World Worst Record Show album. Conrad is "emotionally distranght" that his truly hideous single, "My Pullover", hasn't been included in this Saturday's Channel 4 Top Ten: Really Annoying Records. "There has obviously been a serious error in the research," the **Buckinghamshire-based** Conrad fumes.

THE NON-SMOKER Clint Eastwood (pictured) had to learn to chain-smoke nonfiltered Camels to play a reporter in his new film True Crime. But his co-star Dennis Leary, who built his reputation on his own welldocumented nicotine habit. was forced to abjure the weed while portraying Clint's nonsmoking boss. Whatever happened to typecasting?

MICHAEL ASHCROFT, the Conservatives' millionaire lender of last resort, is sending increasingly desperate begging letters to MPs. The latest concerns the 1000 clnb, a questionable organisation where suits pay £1,000 a year for the privilege of meeting such influential international figures as the Vulcan-foundling John Redwood and his dynamic doppelgänger, Francis Mande. Asbcroft asked MPs to suggest at least one 1000 clnb candidate from their constituencles. Response was skeletal, so Ashcroft has named and shamed those who haven't come through with contacts: from a possible pool of 165 respondents,

only 23 Tory MPs

delivered the goods.

Embarrassingly, the

142 defaulters include two senior Tories who are celebrated for their impecuniosity and lack of heavy money connections: the oil trader Alan Duncan and Asda's head boncho Archie Norman,

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@ independent, co.uk

Girls are just too sensible for sport

WHAT I have to say on the subject of women and sport will not, I feel sure, endear me to my liberated soul sisters, or to anyone else for that matter. I am moved to say it only because of the latest welter of views that we do not produce great athletes in this country because we don't encourage girls to play competitive sport at school.

Fiddlesticks. Schoolgirls have just as much opportunity to be sporty as schoolboys - at my niece's Hertfordshire comprehensive there are more girls in the school football team than boys - it's just that they do not choose to take it up seriously afterwards. Why not? Because they've got more sense, that's why. More to the point, when girls leave school, unlike boys, they grow up. They realise that being able to jump higher, throw further and run faster than anyone else is fine on sports day but in the long run, if you see what I mean, doesn't in fact get you very far unless yon're prepared to sacrifice your life to it.

It's like being a ballet dancer except that the end result isn't anything as beautiful. I can see the point of giving up junk food, alcohol



SUE ARNOLD

I was brought up to believe that: 'Pigs sweat, gentlemen perspire, and ladies gently glow'

and cigarettes and working out furiously if, at the end of the day (for once this over-used expression is appropriate), you get to dance Giselle. But is all that sacrifice worth it just to be able to jump eight hurdles faster than seven other people and get a pat on the back from Desmond Lynam?

All right, I admit I'm biased. I'm half Burmese, and Orientals, par-

ticularly Oriental women, are not romantic story. For one thing, it was noted for their athletic prowess with one exception. This was my great-grandmother who, according to my mother, was a lady-in-waiting to Queen Supyalat, chief wife to the

last King of Burma. My Burmese history is sketchy but I do know that the royal court of Ava was in Mandalay, surrounded by a deep moat. The night that the King and Queen abandoned their palace to the British, my greatgrandmother apparently fied to safety by leaping into the moat and swimming for her life to the other side, carrying with her a 2-ft-tall Le Pe jar made of 24-carat gold (Le Pe is a form of ceremonial tea), which subsequently became a family heir-loom. "So where is it now?" I asked my mother. She said, vaguely, that it must have got lost somewhere along the line, maybe when the Japanese invaded, which is a shame because a 2-ft-tall solid gold Le Pe jar once belonging to the last Queen of Burma would fetch a bob or two at Sotheby's, I'll bet.

Aside from the mysterious disappearance of the jar, there are a number of holes in this otherwise

a bloodless coup, so there would have been no need for my greatgrandmother to flee for her life. She could have walked out of the palace with her bags, hailed the nearest rickshaw, piled ber luggage on to it, including said jar, and trundled bome to her village. If she swam across the most it was because she chose to do so. Maybe she was in training for the 100 metres freestyle

relay. Who knows? The other reason I'm inclined to doubt the authenticity of my mother's story is that no Burmese woman at that time, let alone a royal lady-in-waiting, would have known how to swim. To this day my mother's family up in the Shan states have a horror of immodesty. When I visited them she gave me strict instructions never, ever to wear a short skirt. Preferably I should adopt a lungyi, a

> way anyone could swim in a hangui. But I digress. We were talking about the athletic prowess of British not Burmese women and their failure to bring back Olympic gold. One reason could be the dearth of glamcrous role models. With few excep-

Burmese-style sarong. There's no

tions - ice skaters, gymnasts, certain tennis players and the late lamented Florence Griffith-Joyner, aka Flo-Jo, with her sexy tracksuits and incredible fingernails - sporty women are deeply unattractive.

Now and again the tabloids run features showing women shotputters, women marathon runners and even, God help us, women rugby players looking alluring in little black dresses, but they are the exception not the rule.

Besides, when they are doing their sport they are neither wearing little black dresses nor looking alluring. They're wearing sweaty vests and sweaty socks and sweatbands. Call me old-fashioned, but I was brought up to believe in that old maxim "Pigs sweat, gentlemen perspire and ladies gently glow."

If, instead of pumping themselves full of steroids to give themselves biceps like breeze blocks, women athletes could find an elixir that would render them sporty and feminine simultaneously. I might even buy myself a Liz McColgan mini-vest to wear above my lungui and start training for next year's London marathon.

Sorry, comrades, the Serbs aren't nice old Communists

MILOSEVIC HAS used the worst evil possible to rise to political power, to divide his people, to trade on fear and to operate a regime of systematic mass rape, murder and genocide, It is a scandal that he has not been indicted for war crimes. Instead, we have negotiated with him while. year by year, his hutchers have worked their way through one part of the former Yugoslavia after

Yugoslavia is a totally artificial state, cobbled together across an international dividing line that had existed for 1,500 years. The eastern and western Roman empires bisected the land between what are broadly the Croat and Serb areas. It was then divided again between the West and the Ottoman empire. Yugoslavia was created by the imperial powers for their convenience at Versailles at the end of the First World War, without consultation with any of the component populations. It is simply amazing that Yugoslavia lasted as long as it did.

free and democratic votes by the peoples of Slovenia and Croatia. the British Government's view that there should be no change in the status of Yugoslavia. I asked: why, when we enjoy our own independence and nationalism, were we denying the same freedoms to people who had been subordinated in a wider federation? Yugoslavia was never a demo-

cracy; the old feudal Serb monarchy dominated it. In the Thirties, Albert Einstein organised a round robin of protest, denouncing the use of terror by the Serb monarchy against the Croat leadership. That fact explains why, when the Germans marched in, so many Croats lined up with them. The world had ignored



LIVINGSTONE

We might have avoided the slaughter in Bosnia. but few on the left were prepared to speak out

the systematic brutality of the Serb monarch, and they seized the chance to escape. But from the moment of Tito's

death in 1980 it started to unravel. In 1981, there were protests and demonstrations throughout Kosovo I remember being in the House as Albanians demanded stronger retary told us, in the aftermath of their regional autonomy to an equivalence with the other six component republics. The Serbian Academy of Sciences began to stir up nationalism with a notorious report, published on 24 September 1986, that talked about historic injustices to the Serb people.

With Yugoslavia starting to fall apart, what would any responsible leader do? Try to pull people together? Build safeguards for minorities? Recognise their legitimate demands? What Milosevic did was to go to Kosovo to whip up a fury of Serbian resentment that could be ridden to power.

Many on the left view the Serbs as wonderful old Communists. Yet in the internal debates of the Yugoslav Communist party in the late

Eighties, the real old Communists warned, one after the other: "Beware of what you are doing. Beware of what you are unleashing." The British left failed to condemn Milosevic then, and also when he suspended the autonomy of Kosovo m 1989

I called for the use of air strikes to stop Milosevic when he first sent troops into Slovenia in 1991. If we had acted then, we might not face the current disaster. We might have avoided the slaughter in Bosnia, But. few on the left were prepared to speak out. This is not some imperialist attempt to establish control of the region. The reason 41 American senators have voted against intervening is they see no profit in it for America, and the fact that the West was silent as Tudiman organised the driving out of Serbs from Krajina was an outrage. Frankly, he should be under indictment for war crimes and for the liquidation of Serbian areas in Krajina.

what Milosevic is now doing to the in 1991 when the then foreign sec- autonomy and the upgrading of Albanians. When the Krajina refugees arrived in Belgrade they were not allowed off the train to seek comfort among their Serb neighbours. They were sent, against their will, to the Albanian areas of Kosovo to tip the balance of the population there.

If we were to stop the air strikes, would Milosevic stop the destruction of the Albanian areas in Kosovo? Of course not. He would recognise that action for what it was - a sign of weakness. He would press on, seizing every day, week and month, to carry on his "ethnic cleansing".

I see this action not as another Vietnam but as a classic parallel with the rise of Hitler in Germany. Hitler rose by exploiting fear of the Jews; Milosevic has risen by exploiting fear of Muslims. We heard Hitler



Tony Benn's opposition to the war shows the split on the left

demand: "All Germans within one international border. Where we use state." That is exactly the cry we hear now from Milosevic: "intervene in Slovenia, in Croatia, in Bosnia so that all Serbs come under one nation". Europe cannot be so gov-However, that does not justify erned. Nationalities are scattered and mixed across the continent.

I hope our action will deter Milosevic. But we must not let him think that because some voices are raised against the bombing, he need simply hold on long enough for us to lose our will. It is not a matter of whether we continue bombing or stop it, if the bombing does not persuade Milosevic to treat his own people as human beings, the West should be prepared to send ground forces.

Preferring to avoid the problem. some ask why intervene in Kosovo when borrors happen around the world? I agree with Bernie Grant who denounced the fact that the West stood by for so long while genocide happened in Rwanda. The end of the Cold War has made a more dangerous and deadly world for many minorities who find themselves on the wrong side of an

power to protect the weak, I will support intervention, as I would have supported intervention in Rwanda.

The left is as deeply divided on this issue as the Tories. I don't know whether this split is the same as that which divided the House o Commons on appeasing Hitler. So that honest Labour pacifists find themselves in the same lobby as Tories who believe it is none of our business what bappens in a small, faraway country. Ranged against them are the bulk of Labour MPs and what remains of the liberalminded wing of the Tory party.

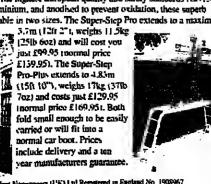
Or perhaps the division is between two camps: those who saw Communism as the only force capable of resisting Hitler and German aggression, and see the hand of modern Germany raised against an old Communist stalwart; and those of us who became politically conscious in the years hetween the invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia and never believed that the old Stalinist regimes were the route

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A revolution in police attitudes

defining moment for society in race matters but will it he? The Stephen Lawrence

case has been profoundly dam-aging, startdy highlighting the problematic relationship between the police and the black community that dates back (at least) to the Sixties. Unless the police service can change significantly and can rely on external support to produce and sustain that change, the damage could be irreparable.

The report of the inquiry has now provided us with an "official" definition of institutional racism which does not make all staff out to be racist and which, by pointing out the unconscious nature of much racism, avoids fatally undermining institutional credibility. It stitutional vigilance, translatthe right of each of four spectra: Unwitting - Knowing; Ignorance - Awareness, Thoughtlessness - Thoughtfulness; Stereotyping - Treating people as individuals according to their needs.

Anti-racism in the Metropolitan Police will extend beyond general vigilance to focus not only on whether discrimination arises (unintentionally or otherwise); it will probe fully the reasons for different outcomes for different ethnic groups; and it will be alert to areas in which the significance of race may simply be overlooked. This approach is at the beart of our Diversity Strategy which we launched last September under the rallying cry of "Protect and Respect"

The Diversity Strategy already encompassed 32 of the 38 recommendations related to the police in the Lawrence report; and the early results are encouraging. Between the last quarter of 1997 and the same period in 1998: the reporting of racially motivated crime rose provides a new standard of in- 101 per cent; 73 per ceot more racially motivated crimes were ing the definition into specific solved; the arrest rate from personal responsibilities for stop searches at pilot sites staff to position themselves at rose from 12 per cent to 20 per cent, with similar rates for all ethnic groups.

So far, so good; but why the emerging divisions? Partix of course, they simply left and right. What's emerging



DENIS O'CONNOR

From a speech by the Director of the

Metropolitan Police Diversity Strategy on institutional racism

in the much wider, middle ground, though, is about two things. It's an argument about the degree of the influence of racism; but it's also an issue of coming to terms with what is really going on in our society.

To meet the challenge of avoiding polarisation, we shall need to find ways of uniting around common ground; and I think there are two anchor reflect the entrenched views of points around which we can mobilise. The first is the pro-

fessionalisation of policing, and the second is the application of the Convention of Human

With regard to the professionalisation of policing a quiet revolution has been under way in recent years, leading to in-creasing specialisation - for example, in relation to child abuse. Among the areas where further improvement is urgently needed, the inquiry has also highlighted in particular: Family liaison for victims of

race crime (we need real expertise bere, especially if families lack confidence or indeed are alienated by the police); A real understanding in conducting investigations of the

sensitivities around race and race matters; A much more challenging approach to reviewing investigations that are not suc-

ceeding. Will that professionalism, together with greater vigilance about racism, suffice for policing at the millennium? Prob-

ably not. stop and search aimed at eliminating any disproportionality between blacks and whites which is due to unfair discrimination might go some way to easing concerns - but it would not necessarily meet the tests of the European Convention on Human Rights which we are to embrace fully

For the key principles of the Convention not only require the use of police powers to avoid discrimination; they test the real value of applying a power at all in some circumstances. This suggests that it may be necessary to consider whether stop and search is an appropriate tactic to deal with an identified crime problem.

In conclusion, I am confident that we can make significent progress in pursuing the unfinished revolution in policing and in the provision and protection of the rights of all our people. But it will require considerable resolve. Adaptation on this scale will not be painless by any means; yet, as Martin Luther King reminded us in 1967: "Nothing could be more tragic than for men to live in these revolutionary times For example, an approach to and fail to achieve the new attitudes and the new mental outlooks that the new situation



WEDNES

THE SECTION OF THE SE



THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW The Independent 31 March 1999

for Spor The legacy of appeasement



GARTON ASH

We need a commitment of at least 10 years, tens of thousands of troops and billions of dollars

ALUSH GASHI was a small, wiry, hright-eyed man, a surgeon, a healer. When we met in Pristina, be explained to me, with quiet passion and in excellent English, what the Kosovar Albanians were trying to chieve with their movement of noniolent resistance. Now he is dead shot by the Serbs running amok in Kosovo. I will remember him. And I will remember Fehmi Agani, the grey-suited, sly old professor who tried to negotiate a peaceful path to independence. I try to telephone other friends and acquaintances in Pristina, ringing all their numbers, but the lines are dead - and perhaps they are, too.

They were alive a few weeks ago. They might still be alive if we had not started this bombing that is supposed to help them. Does that mean we were wrong to bomb? Not necessarily. But we were wrong not to have done so much sooner. The time to stop Milosevic was in the autumn of 1991, when be sent his troops to besiege the Croatian town

Vukovar, but we, in Western Europe, were fiddling in Maastricht. In the Nineties, as in the Thirties, a decade of appeasement ends in a war much larger and more dangerous than it would have been at the beginning.

For seven years we gave no effective aid to the strictly non-violent efforts of people such as Alush Gashi and Fehmi Agani. We paid serious attention only when other Kosovar Albanians reached for the gun. Then we buffed and puffed for another year. "I hope Milosevic is listening - this is the last warning." said Robin Cook. That was in June 1998. Yes, we tried to negotiate a just peace at Rambouillet. But, as the Romans knew, if you want peace, you must prepare for war. And we knew that in the last few weeks Milosevic was pouring military and

Here was our second big mistake: to start the campaign without being prepared to follow through with troops on the ground if Milosevic reacted as be has. Of course, it's easy to be wise with hindsight. I myself thought be would probably back down at the last minute. But it was irresponsihle not to plan for the worst case, which is now with us. In Serbia



A soldier waves a weary family of Kosovar refugees through the Macedonian border

proper, the bombing has united people in defence of their country. Two days ago I talked by telephone to a liberal, anglophile friend in Belgrade, a fierce critic of Milosevic. He told me they were sitting in the cellar, cursing Clinton as a maniac and celebrating the shootingdown of a Nato jet. The bombing has "united the whole nation", he said. If people like him are talking like that, what chance is there that senior army officers will turn against Milosevic at such a moment?

In Kosovo, Serbian forces are brutally driving tens, perhaps already hundreds of thousands of Albanians out of their homes, following the quarter of a million. made homeless in the last year. The refugees' reports of summary executions are too detailed to be mere rumour or exaggeration. terror and destruction? Is the action concentrated, as some reports suggest, on the regional strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army? Is it in preparation for a possible partition of the province between Serbs and Albanians, a fallback position much discussed in Belgrade over the last year? Or does Milosevic really think he can "ethnically

cleanse" Kosovo of 1.8' million Albanians, 90 per cent of its population, even as our bombs rain down? Whatever the plan, it is being implemented with incredible speed. At this rate, even the most concentrated and sophisticated air power will not stop it before hundreds of thousands more Kosovars have been driven out - and humanitarian disaster has become total catastrophe.

There are now two alternatives. One is just to go on bombing, and pretend that failure is success: an Orwellian exercise. The other is to prepare very rapidly to send in ground troops. For all the appalling difficulties of mountainous terrain. mined roads, unwelcoming transit countries, restless allies and above all, inevitable casualties, I reluctantly conclude that - if nothing ges for the better - this will strategy. Is this a wild rampage of become the lesser evil in a matter a huge commitment. Yet the realof days. If we go in while most of the Albanians are still there, Kosovo will not be "Europe's Vietnam", because the majority of the population - the Vietnamese, as it were - will be on our side. (However, our forces would also have to try to prevent Kosovar Albanians from taking revenge on innocent Serbs.)

Russia. Ideally, it would become a United Nations trusteeship, for which the UN charter provides. Against the obvious objection that we would be invading a sovereign state, you could argue that Kosovo was a constituent part of former Yugoslavia - a republic in all but name - and that the international community has already accepted the republic's right to form separate political entities. Eventually, but only after a period as a protectorate, it could become the sovereign Republic of Kosovo - or Kosova (the Albanian spelling, with an a).

make Kosovo an international

protectorate, as it would effectively

have been if the Serbs had signed

the Rambouillet accord. We should

try to get as many nations as pos-

sible involved - including, crucially,

Coming on top of the existing proity is still more daunting. If Milosevic lost Kosovo, the Serbs might finally lose patience with him. But in Belgrade last year I was repeatedly warned that what came after Milosevic could initially be worse, with a figure like the extreme nationalist Vojislav Seselj gaining power. At best, this would be a Weimar Serbia, bristling with revanchist senti-

ment. At worst, it would be a rogue state, like Libya or Iraq. On the other side, to Kosovo's east, you have a failed state: Albania. We could not take responsibility for the Albanians in Kosovo without doing something about the imploded, bankrupt, semi-anarchic motherland. To Kosovo's south, there is Macedonia, an unstable, divided country, with at least a quarter of its population being Albanian. To its north there is little Montenegro, the other constituent republic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which is trying to assert its own autonomy from Serbia. What if Milosevic - or his successor turned his attention to crushing

The problems don't stop there. I spent the last few days in the capital of one our new Nato allies, Hunnorthern neighbour: Within a fortnight of joining Nato, Hungary has found itself involved in a war with its neighbour. Worse still, more than 350,000 ethnic Hungarians live in Serbia, in the Vojvodina - which, like Kosovo, was an autonomous province in the old Yugoslavia. So Hungary's new allies are also bombing Hungarians. I found Hungarian leaders wracked with

Montenegro?

DR PEGGY **NORRIS**

RIGHT

OF REPLY



The chair of Against Legalised Euthanasia, Research & Teaching replies to our leader on mercy-killing

I TRUST your editorial "We should not be scared of euthanasia" (27 March) will alert readers to the inherent dangers of a law permitting the killing of sick or incapacitated people, even at their request. While the physically fit and healthy may helieve they would rather be "euthanatised" than be dependent on others to care for them, no one knows how he or she may feel when that time comes.

TC Warburg in his book A Voice at Twilight kept a diary of his thoughts and feelings during the last six months of his life. He was severely disabled, and required total care. Having read Exit's "Guide to Self-Deliverance," he approved of it. But then he changed his mind and did not want "to take or lose my life. Glad there's no Euthanasia Bill through Parliament".

It would be ironic if Britain passed a cuthanasia law. The hospice movement, founded here, has shown the world how nationts with an incurable illness causing disability and pain can be helped by expert palliative care and drugs.

concern. What if refugees started

flooding across their frontier? What

if Serbian nationalism turned

against the Vojvodina Hungarians?

was tackled by a charming couple

from another Nato ally, Greece.

The attacks are madness, they told

me. Their sympathies are with the

a province of 2 million suffering

people, but a whole region. It will

mean an international commitment

of at least 10 years, tens of thou-

sands of military and civilian

personnel, billions of dollars. But

The alternative is for the

mightiest alliance of democracies in

the history of the world to be de-

feated on its 50th anniversary, and

to leave the innocent to be slaugh-

hundredfold. This is the mess we

have got ourselves into. This is the

legacy of a decade of appeasement.

This, in the deepest sense, is the

price we in Western Europe must

now pay for having fooled our-

selves 10 years ago, at the end of the

Cold War, that we could just go on

cultivating our own back gardens,

without facing up to our respons-

ibility for the whole of Europe.

what is the alternative?

In short, this is to take on not just

Then, in my Budapest hotel, I

The evidence emerging from government reports in Holland proves that once killing is permitted, it is not possible to set secure limits. Doctors do not obey the rules; euthanasia is not reported.

It is tragic that the British Medical Journal on 16 January this year reported: "Police and health officials are investigating at least 50 deaths of patients around England amid accusations that the deaths were hastened by denying the Food and fluid are part of the normal care we owe to one another. The Department of Health's view of the Bland judgment, which labelled tube feeding "medical treatment", was that it "laid down legal principles which point a way forward". In fact it pointed 50 vears back

Lives fashioned in exile

The political object should be to

A PAIR of really long legs can be a great advantage in life. It is strange to think how different these two models' memoirs would have been if Irina Pantaeva and Waris Dirie had been born of average height. Both little less than 6ft, they sprang

up tall and skinny in Siberia and Somalia respectively, where food and water were always short and where, they each discovered, it was a tremendous asset to be able to run fast - Irina from Soviet Communism and Wasir from marriage to a 60-year-old (in exchange for five camels).

of their books on the move. Pantaeva ing a close encounter with a lion and



WEDNESDAY POEM

Three slow hours, bell-stunned hours,

slow as drugged words. Burma-slow,

These are southern hours for sleep.

In rooms, gloam-dim rooms, stone

still, beat-heavy tombs for sleeping,

lids, closed before the marble stare

Dreams rise, calm and warm as peaches.

in the eyeless smiles of crumbling gods.

as seas, in vase-shaped afternoons,

embalm the last persisting innocence.

This poem comes from 'Crossing No-Man's Land' by Judy Gahagan,

published at £6.95 by Flambard Press, Stable Cottage.

East Fourstones, Hexham NE47 5DX

poised within the sun's big arch,

of kings. Such sleep is South.

Sleepers soaked in peace stir

These hours in days as vast

stupefy the moments.

sun glows still on

Wednesday Books

DESERT FLOWER BY WARIS DIRIE, VIRAGO, £10.99 SIBERIAN DREAM BY IRINA PANTAEVA, BANTAM, £5.99

may have had a happy home life in the small city of Ulan Ude, but in Siberian Dream she is never far from a bus stop, train station, airport or boat. Dirie spends the best part of her first six chapters running away from home As nomads, both girls spend a lot across the desert, which involves hav-

then the assault of a truck driver. Fittingly, the same legs which enable their escapes also qualify them for entry into the fashion world, where they will tread the smoother surfaces of international catwalks. For both, going a long way is literally measured by how far they get from their home towns. That they will defy the odds and

"make it" is never doubted. "I was always looking for a way to make things better, push myself for-ward and find whatever that mysterious opportunity was that I knew was waiting for me," writes Dirie. While she believes that "survival is determined only by the strength of one's will", for Pantaeva "reality would be crafted by the tenacious and the creative". It is an interesting difference, for if Pantaeva's determination makes her lyrical, Dirie's makes her tough-talking.

What both share, however, is a strange, shifting language that melds their new environments with those of their origins, and which confuses moments of biographical revelation with the more impersonal lexicon of their industry. Neither Siberian Dream nor Desert Flower, for instance, would be out of place as a headline on a fashion

shoot in a glossy magazine.

Strangely, the commercial language of fashion is not seen by either model as an intrusion on her personal voice, but as a validation of how far she has come, and a means of genuine identification. "I did make-up ads for Revion, then later represented their new perfume, Agee," remembers Dirie. "The commercial amounced, 'From the heart of Africa comes a fra- Waris Dirie, author and model

grance to capture the heart of every woman'." Dirie approves this use of nor does it when she finally marries "my exotic African look", though it is a man she loves. surely not exotic to her At ber first Chanel casting, Pan-

taeva happily recalls hearing: This is an incredible girl. Look at her face! Where has she been? Where did she come from?" It is a key moment for Irina. "I wished I could hold lit! in time and live it again and again," she says. But what she perceives as an in-

terest in her life is really the stylist's means of summing up the collection's "story" or message, for which Irina will become a vehicle. She mistakes the kind of admiration she receives. Fashion's constant search for the new intersects with an individual story, which then finds in fashion a meaning no less valid for being expressed through the formulae of an industry not best known for its sincerity.

Fashion represents an opportunity for role play; for being the centre of

attention in a way neither woman's cultures had ever permitted. But whereas Pantaeva's childhood of dressing up and sewing through the night to make clothes for the next day finds its just fulfilment in her life as a model, Dirie's biography does not. Nor does it when she resolves her passport problem; nor does it when she marries Nigel in order to stay in England;

Dirie's real interest lies elsewhere. She is most coherent when speaking against female circumcision, which she herself suffered aged five and which she now campaigns against with the UN. As she runs through these various strands without weaving them together, her memoir lacks the direction of Pantaeva's. At times, reading Desert Flower feels like looking at a photo alhum of somebody else's

holiday snaps. At the close of their memoirs, Irina and Waris are both married, both living in America; but where do they go from here? Both have collected and recollected their experiences in memoirs like various pieces of baggage, but neither seems sure where to take them next, if anywhere. One thing only is sure: you have to admire them. PAULA COCOZZA



Rui Xavier

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Lucien Aigner

LUCIEN AIGNER'S photographs were of the famous or the unknown. the dramatic or the commonplace.

All of his images - whether a statement about world peace in one of his series at the League of Nations in the Twenties, his coverage of people and life in France, England and the United States in the Thirties, his unforgettable essays on La Guardia's City Hall, Riker's Island Prison, pre-Second World War Harlem, Einstein at work, and prayers on D-Day in the Forties, or his photography of children in the Fifties and Sixties - are meaningful because Aigner committed himself to film only after he had made up his mind what he wanted to say.

His portraits possess an impressive vitality be they of the world's famous - Hitler, Mussolini, Churchill, Gandhi, the Roosevelts, Haile Selassie and other major figures of the time - or of his friends and neighbours in The Berkshires of Massachusetts. He was orimarily a thinker and philosopher and only then a photographer.
The seminal German picture

magazines of the early Thirties and the invention of a small camera, the Leica, spawned a select group of key photographers: Erich Salomon, Alfred Eisenstaedt, Robert Capa and Henri Cartier-Bresson, Lucien Aigner is of that vintage, hut is one of the least known "pioneers of photojournalism"

It was the acknowledged "god-father of photojournalism", Stefan Lorant, who commented of his fellow countryman: "What sets him apart from other 'picture takers' is his fervent dedication to his work. He helongs to a minuscule band of camera artists who do not press the button in a mad rush but ponder and think before they let the shutter go."

Ladislas (Lucien) Aigner was born in Ersekujvár in Hungary, now Nove Zamky, Czechoslovakia, in 1901. He emigrated to the United States in 1939, becoming naturalised in 1945. As with many of his contemporaries photography was not

the profession for which he originally trained. He studied at Prague University in 1920; theatre and acting at Friedrich Wilhelm University and Reichersche Dram Hochschule, Berlin, between 1921 and 1922: and then law at the University of Budapest between 1922 and 1924.

Aigner was part of the creative explosion of Hungarian talent that dispersed during the Twenties through the cultural capitals of Europe. He was intrigued as to why the Hungarians were so strong in what was to become photojournalism, and believed that he belonged to a nation of storytellers who learned their trade through spending hours in the coffee houses. Though superficial as an art form, for him photojournalism

Presse, VU, L'Illustration, Weekly Ilhistrated, Lilliput, and Picture Post.

In 1939 he moved to the heady excitement of New York. He continued to freelance hut not always successfully. Technically an "enemy alien" and prohibited from photographing war-related subjects, he turned his attention elsewhere.

Talking of his Harlem, New York, photographs he observed, "I photographed black people when it was not good manners". For Aigner, these were commercially lean years when he often struggled to make a living. "I sometimes hated photography. It caused me too much suffering, too many frustrations." His early work consistently shows a sense of huwas only another way of storytelling. mour, often with a sardonic edge and a remarkable gestural quality that

'I have always been suspicious of the cliché about one picture being worth a thousand words . . . Pictures produce impact, writing adds meaning'

the photographic medium," Aigner observed. "I feel that pictures are not enough to say what needs saying. I have always been suspicious of the cliché about one picture being worth a thousand words." Perhaps that is why Aigner was equally at home using both photographs and words. He became a writer for Az Est, a Hungarian newspaper group in Bu-dapest, in 1924 even before he had considered using a camera seriously. It was to give him an edge over his contemporaries who were absorbed only in images and visual picture stories. Aigner was interested in the total integration of images and text.

Living in Paris in the Thirties provided opportunity for him to work freelance. This was to be his most prolific period and he contributed features to the Berliner Illustrierte

compensates in energy for what is lost in detail. Later photographs of the New York period reflect the more formal style of American magazine photography, indicative of a more conscious relationship between photographer and subject and a more directorial attitude.

By 1947 Aigner's career as a fulltime photojournalist was virtually at an end and during the next six years he crafted words again as announcer, scriptwriter and producerdirector in the Hungarian section of the Voice of America. For Algner this was "a glorious experience" and "the discovery of a new world" which ended in the political backwash of the McCarthy witch-hunts

Aigner visited Great Barrington, Massachusetts, at the tail-end of the

Zeitung, the Münchner Illustrierte summer of 1954 and found harmory in this region of outstanding nat-ural beauty. The Berkshires had long been the home of well-known figures in the arts. Nearby, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote Tanglewood Toles, Anslin Phelps Stokes penned his monumental Church and State volumes and Herman Meiville wrote Moby Dick. A few miles to the north is Tanglewood, where the Boston Symphony Orchestra gives concerts throughout the summer months. Yet another mid-European's wanderings were over when, the same year, at Great Barrington, he opened his commercial studio consisting of two floodlights and a Rolleiflex.

This peaceful studio was not the end of Aigner's European adventures, rather it became the centre of them. In 1970 he opened a battered old suitcase which had survived the Nazi occupation and been brought out of Paris by his brother, Etienne (better known for his exclusive leather goods), after the Liberation Inside were about 50,000 negatives, the entire product of Aigner's European career. Finding this treasure trove coincided with an increased awareness and value of the photographic print and he began to develop his entire collection - about 100,000 negatives including his work in the United States as a major source of historic documentation.

"Pictures produce impact, writing adds meaning. Pictures without words are often ambiguous, words without pictures lame. To gather material for a written story requires painstaking, continuous effort in time while catching situations in pictures requires concentration on the instantaneous." Uniquely Lucien Aigner did both

MICHAEL HALLETT

Ladislas (Lucien) Aigner, photojournalist: born Ersekujvár, Hungnry 14 September 1901; twice married (two sons, two daughters); died Waltham, Massachusetts 29



Thinker first, photographer second: Aigner in 1932

Lucien Aigner Museum

H. V. Hodson

H. V. HODSON was a distinguished editor of the Sunday Times not of the previous dispensation, but of the one before that. Before Rupert Murdoch acquired the paper and installed Andrew Neil to make it what it is today, it enjoyed under Denis Hamilton and then Harry Evans what many recall as a golden age, characterised by aggressive investigative journalism, minhibited cultural reporting and irrepressible features.

Harry Hodson's Sunday Times was very different hut in its way equally successful. Under his editorship, which lasted from 1950 to 1961, the circulation roughly doubled and passed one million, then a prodigious figure for a serious newspaper. Hodson found its proprietor, the first Viscount Kemsley, so difficult that on at least one occasion he came close to resignation. For, where Kemsley was a crusty conservative on social as well as political and economic issues, Hodson was a liberal conservative, in favour, for example, of liberalisation of the laws concerning homosexuality.

Hodson's intellectual pedigree, in fact, was that of liberal imperialism in general, and of the hrand associated with the group known as Milner's Kindergarten in particular. The Kindergarten came together as a group of very able young men, including the politician and novelist



Hodson: liberal imperialism

John Buchan, the constitutional scholar Lionel Curtis, the banker Robert Brand and many others, who were determined to create a liberal regime in South Africa that would reconcile the Afrikaner and British South Africans; their interest in Africans was limited to vague paternalistic goodwill.

There was a close link between the Kindergarten and All Souls College, Oxford, to which Harry Hodson was elected, from Balliol, in 1928. As a young academic, Hodson's interest was in the British Empire, and his standpoint was that of a liberal imperialist concerned to devise structures that would allow gradual

progress in the direction of selfgovernment. It is fair to say that be and his colleagues were so aware of opposition from blimps and business interests alike that they were cautious to the verge of immobilism.

Hodson took on first the assistant editorship, then from 1934 the editorship, of the Kindergarten's house journal, The Round Table. He also carried out with probity and intelectual clarity a number of assign ments on behalf of what would now be called the Establishment, of which he was a card-carrying member. With his elegant bowler hat and rolled umbrella, and fastidious good manners, not to mention his membership of Brooks's Club and his Mastership of the Mercers' Company, one of the wealthiest and most influential City livery companies, he both looked the part and clearly enjoyed playing it. As a young don he published a number of books about the world economic crisis and about imperial problems, from the point of view of benevolent rulers, rather than from that of the ruled.

On the outhreak of the Second World War he became head of what was called the Empire Division of the Ministry of Information. In 1941 he was sent to India as the "Reforms Commissioner" in New Delhi. Those experiences informed a series of

The Great Divide: Britain-India-relationship Britain might have as Pakistan, published in 1969, By that the ally of the United States. time, in a way that seems quaint today, he had become the assistant editor and later the editor of one of

previous journalistic experience. Even more quaint, to those who have worked on Sunday newspapers in less leisurely times, was the clause in his contract that allowed him not to have to come into the ofdire emergency. Although Hodson had good personal relations with Roy Thomson and indeed with the brasher very non-All Souls journalists brought into the paper hy the new regime, it was clear that the new

the most influential newspapers

in the country with virtually no

journalism was not for him. Instead he found an ideal niche from which to contribute his knowledge of high politics and international affairs as Director - he preferred to call it "Provost"-of the term that would have appealed to Harry Hodson) at Ditchley Park, the Palladian mansion of Ronald and Marietta Tree in the north Oxfordshire woods. There he presided over conferences that encouraged high-minded thinking of what came to be called an "Atlanticist" tooe. Alternative visions were discouraged

In later years Hodson served as the editor of the Annual Register and as a consultant, and for a long time continued to attend weekly leader conferences at the Sunday Times. As an Anglican layman he also took an active part in Old Chelsea Church.

It is hard to recall Harry Hodson's life without the feeling that he was a devoted and civilised servant of a number of lost causes, among them try's best-known apple juices, Copelfice on Saturdays except in times of the British Empire, the ideal of a la (an acronym of the initial letters gentlemanly journalism, and a of Cox's Orange Pippin plus the end special relationship between a ram- of the name of their youngest daughpantly self-confident America and a diminished Britain. were a serious threat, Devora Peake

GODFREY HODGSON

Henry Vincent Hodson, journalist: born London 12 May 1906; Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford 1928-35; Assistant Editor, The Round Table 1931-34, Editor 1934-39; Director, Empire Division, Ministry of Inf-Anglo-American "think-tank" (not a ormation 1939-41; Reforms Commissioner, Government of India 1941-42; Principal Assistant Secretary/head of Non-Munitions Div-ision, Ministry of Production 1942-45; Assistant Editor, Sunday Times 1946-50, Editor 1950-61; Provost of Ditchley 1961-71; Master, Mercers' Company 1964-65; Editor, Annual Register 1973-88: marbooks about the future of empire, of in a civilised manner, and the ried 1933 Margaret Honey (four which the most notable was perhaps prevailing idea was the special sons); died London 27 Morch 1999.

Devora Peake

and a businesswoman. A change in EU rules in 1969 had meant that she and her husband Bill Peake could no longer sell their smaller or irregularly shaped apples as eating apples, despite the fact that there was no change in their taste or quality. So they brought presses to extract the juice from this fruit, which they marketed as a healthy drink. This ter, Carmella). At a time when French Golden Delicious apples

championed the English apple. Born in Tel Aviv in 1915, Devora Peake was the child of Russian immigrants. Her father owned almond and orange groves, and she could remember being afraid of the snakes and scorpions that inhabited them. At the American University of Beirut she read commerce and economics. Later she worked for the Middle East Agency of Lloyd's Underwriters and for United Artists and RKO, handling

workmen's compensation claims. She was about to come to Britain to study fire insurance when she met and married a Jewish English farmer, engineer and inventor, Bernard Loshak. Devora was only 14 when they first met. He was walking through an orange grove when he heard someone whistling the "Kreutzer" Sonata: it was her father, and an acquaintance was

struck up. Devora and Bernard Loshak settied on his 120-acre fruit farm in Boxford, Suffolk. They were divorced shortly after the Second World War. but remained on friendly terms. She kept the land because he felt she was the better farmer, and more likely to make a go of it. Devora married her second husband, Bill Peake, in 1948, who had been in the Admiralty during the war They met at Champney's health farm, where he was convalescing and she was recovering from her divorce; they played chess together.

Soon they bought additional land. In the summer of 1958 East Anglia suffered a terrible drought, and Devora's experience in Palestine alerted her to the need for the farm to have its own irrigation system. Helped by the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation and the banks, she was able to install what was at the time the largest private irrigation scheme in Europe. The apples grew big and juicy and the farm prospered.

Having turned the EU restrictions into a husiness opportunity, the Peakes saw the sales of Copella grow until by the end of the 1980s it was available throughout the country in supermarkets, delicatessens, health food shops and even hotels and restaurants. Free from colouring, sweeteners or added water, it was

DEVORA PEAKE was a fruit farmer the leading hrand in the apple-juice market, and there was some demand for it in export markets. The enormous potential required resources beyond the means of the family. Then in 1989, as part of his BBC-TV Troubleshooters series. Sir John Harvey Jones visited Copella, and advised selling that part of the business to the Taunton Cider Company, which they did.

Several family members continued to be involved, working under contract to the new owners. Then in 1992, to everyone's surprise, the family bought back Copella, and expanded it with the addition of Cawston Vale and Copella chilled juices.A Royal Warrant was granted by the Prince of Wales in December 1997, and just after that the husiness was acquired by Tropicana UK, the leading juice hrand in the country. Devora's sons-in-law continue to he involved, with Stephen Unwin as managing director and Roger Rendall as consultant.

In addition to the Copella subsidiary, there were still the fruit and farming businesses, and these expanded, with more land being bought, to a total of 900 acres, including land in Ardleigh and an interest in a farm in Colchester. Four hundred acres produce fruit, not only apples but also strawberries, raspberries and tayberries, cherries and elderflower. Of the remaining farm land, 50 acres are grassland and woodland, and 200 acres arable.

Two hundred acres that were deemed unsuitable for orchards vere developed in 1970 and became the Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club. Bill Peake himself designed two championship courses and a design award-winning cluhhouse set around reservoirs. (He died of cancer in 1979.) The golf club is currently being expanded, along with a "Peake Fitness" health centre and a conference centre. In 1997 the golf club won the Bale Award, an initiative by the Suffolk Agricultural Association to find the best alternative use of agricultural land; it also won a

Times architectural award. There was further diversification in 1990, when the family bought Plantsman Ardleigh Storage, a fruit packing and storage company, which changed its image last year, and is one of the country's most innovative top and soft fresh fruit packing and marketing companies. It supplies all the retail multiples with top and soft fruit, and the brand of Peake Fruit is now being developed.

PAUL LEVY

Devora Yaffa Lubarsky, fruitfarmer and businesswoman; born Tel Aviv, Palestine 28 May 1915; MBE 1996; married first Bernard Loshak (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved), second 1948 Bill Peake (died 1979; three daughters); died Colchester. Essex 24 Morch 1999.

Richard Allen

painter and printmaker who also found time to teach and work as an exhibition and art consultant, among many other interests.

During the 1960s he was primarilv associated with the Op Art Movement and became part of Bridget Riley and Peter Sedgeley's Match Shed artists co-operative in London. In 1971 be became a member of the Matrix Group organised by Malcolm Hughes, which included the artists Geoffrey Steele and Michael Kidner. Allen exhibited extensively from this time and his work was selected, among others, by Nicholas Serota for his "Systems Art" show at the Whitechapel Gallery in London in 1972 and in "British Painting '74" at the Hayward Gallery. Allen was one of the first Op artists to show at the new Angela Flowers Gallery in 1971 and an exhibition of his recent paintings will be shown there in May this year.

His paintings of this period were often large and brightly coloured but during the mid-Seventies he abandoned colour to work primarily in monochrome and using a grid structure, with charcoal, cellulose

RICHARD ALLEN was an abstract acetate and wax on canvas and paper. His most recent works showed a return to limited colour

and oil paint. His last series of paintings, entitled White Paintings 1995-1997, bave a serene and peaceful quality. A number of these were included in a recent large retrospective of his work, "Richard Allen 1957-97", held at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, last October, which will also be shown in May at the Jersey Arts

Centre in St Helier. In all he held 21 solo exhibitions. including shows at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1975), Gallery Takagi Nogoya, in Japan (1982). Exeter University (1985) and the Printworks Gallery, Chicago (1998). His work has been widely exhibited and examples can be found in many leading collections, among them those of the Arts Council, of the British Council, the National Academy of Art, New Delhi and the Museums of Modern Art of Lodz. Skopie and Florida; and the universities of

Hull and Aberystwyth. Allen was born in Worcester in 1933. After leaving school he worked during 1952-54 underwent National Service in Korea and Japan. In 1955 he entered the Worcester School of Art and in 1957 he attended Bath Academy of Art, Corsham, where he gained his Art Teacher's Certificate in 1960. While at Corsham, which was then led by the inspirational principal Clifford Ellis, Allen was taught by some of the leading abstract artists of the day, including Adrian Heath and

Howard Hodgkin. During 1961 he studied in Italy on an Italian government scholarship and in April that year married Evelyn Laurens, a fellow student at Corsham. By 1964 he was teaching full-time at Croydon College of Art alongside the abstract artists Bridget Riley and John Hoyland. In 1965 he left Croydon and in 1966 he was a Commonwealth Fine Art Scholar in India. The following year he was awarded a Fine Art Fellowship at

Sussex University. After 1967 Allen decided that he did not wish to teach full-time but became a popular and influential visiting lecturer at many colleges and universities until the end of working in his studio with his 1997; two daughters); died London

of Art, the Stade School, Reading, Aberystwyth and the London School of Printing.

He also worked as an exhibition consultant and designer, and will be particularly remembered for his successful series of exhibitions at the Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street, which included paintings, photography and prints by many important artists. While living in Jersey between 1979 and 1991 he did a great deal to help promote local contemporary art. He was involved in advising the Jersey International Arts Festival and one of his design projects was to produce a new sign system for the Jersey Wildlife Foundation.

In 1991 Allen moved to Whitneyon-Wye, Herefordshire and started to teach at the University of Wales School of Art, Aberystwyth, and during this time he joined the Teaching Quality Assessment panel of the **HEFCW** (Higher Education Funding Council for Wales).

Richard Allen was a gentle and kind man, a devoted father and husband. He was at his happiest for a while in agriculture, and his life, including the Royal College wife Eve nearby, busy in their much- 9 February 1999.



Allen: serene quality

loved garden. Sadly, she died of cancer in 1997; during this fraumatic period Allen began to show early symptoms of motor neurone disease. which was finally diagnosed a few months after his wife's death. He moved to London last year, and spent much of his time designing work on his computer

ROBERT TILLING

Richard Allen, artist, teacher, designer and art consultant: born Worcester 8 February 1933; married 1961 Evelyn Laurens (died

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

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November 1941 on Timmimi and Gaza-

la involved a parachute drop. Launched

in a fierce wind, it was a disaster and

only 22 out of 64 men survived death or

captivity. Riley's aircraft, containing 11

Desert Group (LRDG). The failure of

this first operation could have been a

fatal blow to the newborn unit, but

lessons were learnt and, with Riley now

its Regimental Sergeant-Major, within

weeks small teams of sometimes no

more than five men, this time trans-ported by the LRDG, were successful-ly carrying out raids and destroying

aircraft on airfields: 37 at Agebadia and

7 at Tumet. In Riley's first raid led by

Stirling, 18 of Rommel's vitally needed

petrol bowzers (petrol tanker lorries)

and four food dumps were destroyed at

Riley's next raid, on Slonta, where

they were unable to surmount the air-

field defences, was less successful.

None the less, with the SAS expanding,

be was put in charge of training the new

volunteers, who included a French

squadron. He was much involved in the

large-scale raid on Benghazi Harbour

in September 1942. Unfortunately the

enemy had been alerted and it proved

almost impossible to penetrate the har-

bour. In the fierce fighting the SAS lost

However, with these daring and spec-

tacular raids on Rommel's supplies

50 out of the 200 men involved.

Bouerat Harbour



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THE WATER

Major Pat Riley

WHILE SERVING as a lieutenant in North Africa, David Stirling conceived and aircraft, of which 320 were de-stroyed, the SAS had not only estabthe idea of small raiding parties which lished itself but had changed the face would infiltrate behind enemy lines and destroy Rommel's aircraft and supply of war. Pat Riley, an astute reader of officers and men, was the perfect man in adversity, fathering and giving confidumps. This bold and audacious idea ultimately found favour with his dence to his young soldiers. He was a steady influence throughout the cam-paign and often the mediator between commander in-chief, General Claude schinleck, and in July 1941 L Detach-ment SAS Brigade was born. It was called its diverse characters. For his work in a brigade to deceive the enemy but it North Africa he was awarded the DCM. consisted of only 62 men. Among the first to volunteer was Sergeant Pat Riley. The first Special Air Service raid in

Riley was born in Wisconsin in 1915, the eldest of five children. At the age of seven his family moved to Haltwhistle in Cumbria where he attended the local school until he was 14 when he started work in a granite quarry alongside his father and grandfather men, was the only one later to ren-dezvous intact with the Long Range

Finding the work unfulfilling he joined the TA, before enlisting into the Coldstream Guards in 1982. Celebrating before joining up and having missed the last bus, he "borrowed" a local farmer's horse and rode bareback to Haltwhistle where he tied the horse to a neighbour's fence. At the outbreak of war he volunteered

for 2 Troop 8 Guards Commando, part of Layforce under Lt-Col Bob Laycock, part of which was sent to the Western Desert in 1941. (While there he heard that he had received his call-up papers for the United States Army) However the Commando units were too large and immobile to execute surprise raids successfully, though Riley's troop led by Lt Jock Lewis launched a surprise raid in the Fig Tree sector, part of the defence of Tobruk. Getting under the wire they caused considerable casualties. After the dishandment of Layforce, Riley re-turned to the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards. Restless for action, he was quick to volunteer for David Stirling's newborn SAS based at Kabrit.

By the beginning of 1943, with Stir-ling now a POW and Jock Lewis dead, the charismatic Paddy Mayne took command of the SAS. Riley, who was now a Captain, saw action with the regiment in Italy before returning to Scot-



Riley: founder member of the SAS

land to set up a camp at Manchline before moving to its permanent camp in Darvel. For the SAS had now swollen to the size of a brigade, with two British battalions, two Free French battalions and a Belgian squadron.
When the SAS moved south to their

new HQ at Highland House in Chelmsford, Riley was in charge of recruiting and training before operations in France. After D-Day mobility was the key and Riley, still based at Chelmsford, ensured that all the new jeeps were properly equipped for action behind the enemy lines. The SAS, now 2,500 strong under Brigadier Roddie McLeod, were to form a number of bases from which to harry enemy communications, and work with the French resistance, blowing up roads and railway lines and reporting to the RAF suitable areas to bomb. It was very much as David Stirling had proposed in the early days: inflict damage, casualties and above all, confusion.

After the Armistice, two battalions of the SAS were airlifted to Norway where Riley, based at Bergen, was involved in the supervision and disarming of the occupying German forces. With Paddy Mayne commanding, there was scope

for relaxation, but word was about that the SAS was going to be disbanded. Ru-mour became reality in September 1945. Little could anyone have thought then that the SAS would six years later

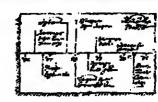
On demobilisation Riley joined the Cambridge Constabulary, but restless with peacetime inactivity he volunteered for the Malayan Regiment in 1950 where he worked closely with the newly formed Malayan Scouts in their actions against Communist insurgence. The Senuts had been formed from men of the 21 SAS, a Territorial Army unit raised in 1947 from the Artists Rifles and a Rhodesian squadron. In 1951 the Scouts became 22 SAS. Riley, who was based at Port Dixon and now a major, liaised and worked with the SAS in the persecution of the terrorists. With over 100 terrorists killed or captured, the SAS had proved their worth as an integral part of British counter-insurgency operations.

When Riley turned 40, in 1955, he decided to leave Malaya and with his wife purchased the Dolphin Hotel in Colchester. Three years later he joined Securicor, where he held various senior positions until his retirement in 1980, by which time he was living in Hastings. Although restricted by bad health, he contimued to play hridge and with another ex-SAS member held a number of regimental reprions.

Pat Riley never came to terms with the loss of his wife, Kaye, in 1996 and much of his enthusiasm for life seemed to ebb away. Even on his last day, surrounded by his family and in good humour he reminisced about his life and in particular his wartime experiences, remembering every moment.

MAX ARTHUR

Charles George Gibson ("Pat") Riley, soldier: born Red Granite, Wisconsin 24 November 1915; DCM 1942; married 1940 Kaye Ward (died 1996; one son); died Hastings, East Susser 9



HISTORICAL NOTES

Grim, eloquent facts of Gallipoli

world war has aroused more controversy than the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915. It remains the most fascinating of campaigns, replete with "might-have-beens", or, as Churchill expressed it, "the

terrible "is" accumulate". Although the quality of the substantial Gallipoli literature has been, and remains. very high, there have been exceptions. As John North wrote, "No battleground so easily lends itself to retrospective sentimentality", and, sadly, to mythology.

The Australian mythology is that it was entirely an Australian operation botched by incompetent British commanders. The Turkish version is that it was all a personal triumph for their national hero Mustanha Kemai, later Ataturk. Not too many Australians know, or want to know, that 35 per cent of the original Anzacs were Britishborn first-generation Australians, or that the best Allied general on the Peninsnia was Harold Walker, the commander of the 1st Australian Division, and the architect of the capture of the fortress of Lone Pine. Like the Anzac commander,

Birdwood, he was British. One can have more sympathy for the Turkish mythologists. Kemal became President and Father of the Nation and a hard tyrant. Although he is long dead, his shadow survives him. The real Turkish commanders,

NO CAMPAIGN of either the Germans von Sanders and Kannengeisser, have been accordingly airbrushed out of the Turkish version. The folly of this is that

there is no need for mythology. The underestimated Turk soldier was a revelation in defending his country. Kemal's interventions on 25 April and 10 August were decisive. The defence of the tiny Anzac position by the Australians and New Zealanders, increasingly ravaged by dysentery and typhoid, and the subsequent August break-out, is one of the epics

of modern warfare. But, as the casualty lists grimly demonstrate, the prime burden fell upon the British and French at Helles, and later at Suvla. While the Anzacs hung on resolutely during that torrid summer the British and the French were slowly advancing north, but at beavy cost. By the time of the brilliant evacuations of the Suvia Anzac and Helles positions, without a single casualty under the noses of the Turks in December 1915 and January 1916, the British dead were 26,000, the French 10,000, the total Anzac dead 10,000.

In proportion to their male populations the Anzac losses were far worse than these bald statistics, which explains why Gallipoli is so important a part of their national histories, and why Anzac Day has always been, and remains, so important to them.

And Gallipoli was hardly the disaster it has been often depicted. Grievous though the Allied casualties were. those of the Turks were horrific, largely the result of heroic but futile headlong attacks in broad daylight, and for which Kemal was as

guilty as anyone. There are no reliable figures for the Turkish dead, but 200,000 is generally considered an underestimate. The Turkish army was never the same again. And, less than three years after the evacuation, the British occupied the Gallipoli Peninsula without a shot, the Navy sailed to Constantinople, and the vast Ottoman Empire had disintegrated. But it was three years too late.

Compared with the terrihle battles on the Western Front, with infinitely greater losses, the Gallipoli venture was seen as the one real stroke of imagination and daring in the entire war - and one that so narrowly failed.

The facts of Gallipoli speak for themselves. They are as eloquent as the small and beautifully maintained Commonwealth war cemeteries. and the forbidding smister hleakness of the arid Peninsula itself. Of the 36,000 British and Anzac dead, only some 7,000 have known graves. The Turks, their dead incinerated, have none.

Sir Robert Rhodes James is the nuthor of 'Gallipoli' (Pimlico, £12.50)

Vyacheslav Chornovil

VYACHESLAV CHORNOVIL, who was killed in a late-night car crash as he was returning to Kiev from an election meeting, managed the difficult transition from Soviet-era dissident to politician, but never quite achieved the success he had hoped for in realising his ideal of an independent Ukrainian state.

Leader since 1992 of Narodoy Rukh ("Popular Movement"), one of the main nationalist parties, he was a member of the Ukrainian parliament. As party leader he faced a difficult choice, whether to support the ex-Communists who had turned reformers, such as the current president Leonid Kuchma, or To side with the opposition, which was largely made up of Communists who had not disavowed their past.

A veteran of the Brezhney Andropov and Chernenko era labour camps. Chornovil was quick to take advantage of the openness under Mikhail Gorbachev to revive the activities of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. He was a constant advocate of national rights and supporter of independence for Ukraine. He was instrumental in forming the pro-independence Rukh in 1989.

At the first semi-free local elections in March 1990, Rukh swept the board in the more nationalist western Ukraine and Chornovil became head of the Lviv regional council, the first former polit-



Chornovil: 'soul of the prison block'

ical prisoper to attain such high office in the Soviet Union. He immediately brought in radical measures such as the privatisation of land, shops and homes and ousted the Communist Party from its privileged position.

As confusion over the ill-fated putsch against Gorbachev reigned in Moscow in August 1991, Chornovil was one of the most vocal initiators of a vote in Ukraine's away from the Soviet Union. The vote was later confirmed in a nationwide ref-

to Ukraine's first post-Soviet president Leonid Kraychuk in the 1991 presidential election with a quarter of the vote. Chornovil was born the son of village

schoolteachers in central Ukraine in 1937, and studied journalism at Kiev University. He began work as a journalist in the city before moving to the western town of Lviv. By now already active in the burgeoning human rights movement, he had been deeply affected by the wave of arrests that struck nearly two dozen Ukrainian intellectuals during the previous year and produced an account of this persecution that was later published in English as The Chornovil Papers (1968). He was ousted from a Lviv newspa-

per in 1966 for refusing to testify at a political trial and was himself arrested in 1967 and sentenced to three years in prison, a term later cut in half After release he became head of the Ukrainian Helsinki Monitoring Group and edited the underground publication the Ukrainian Herald. In 1972, he was again arrested and sentenced to six years in prison and three years in exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". His strength of character was evident parliament which approved breaking to his fellow political prisoners in labour camp. "The soul of the prison block is Chornovil," one wrote during a 100-day erendum. But Chornovil came second hunger strike in the summer of 1977.

"Conversations between cells are forbidden, but every day he reads us the latest news. The head of the camp, Pikulin, called Chornovil our general." He served his term in exile in the Siberian region of Yakutia. In April 1980, the Soviet authorities again sentenced Chornovil to five years in prison, but he was released in 1983.

Chornovil found political life in independent Ukraine frustrating. In January 1993, in response to the perceived threat of a revival of the former Communist system, Chornovil united with rival nationalist leaders in two other parties to form the Anti-Communist and Anti-Imperialist Front of Ukraine.

The fractious nature of post-Communist politics hit Chornovil's own movement. Rukh split a month ago amid hitter divisions over policy and what some members said was Chornovil's authoritarian leadership. After the split, Chornovil continued to head a half of the party he called Narodny Rukh Number One. By then, Vyacheslav Chornovil's influence was already on the wane.

FELIX CORLEY

Vyacheslav Maksymovich Chornovil, politician: born Erki, Ukraine 24 December 1937; married Atena Pashko (two sons); died Boryspil, Ukraine 25 March 1999.

Behind the Hollywood myth of evil aliens

MUCH OF the meaning of Holy Week is uncannily up-to-date even though so much has changed between the biblical culture and our own. What is uncomfortably close to home is its reminder of the reality and persistence of evil. For the evil that was a key part of the death of Christ still exists today. And it still attempts to

overcome the good.

It is not difficult to see the existence of evil. Millions of people are its victims; harmless citizens maimed through landmines, youngsters who become commodities in the international prostitution trade, people starving through wrong decisions by others, children abused hy parents, women beaten by their partners. In every part of the world there are people who go through life wounded, hurt or hungry. In every continent there are those who are used and discarded by others who do not care. The perennial problem of evil has never been a problem of whether evil exists but why, and

why its power is so strong.

It does not take much of a theologian to recognise that evil has something to do with human beings, and not just particular human beings but all of us. The benign idea that some of us are part of a great majority of essentially good people is simply overoptimistic. Although it's reassuring to be told that there is really a nice guy inside whatever wrong we actually do, or whatever destruction we wreck on others, we are living with delusion if we believe it. Similarly, Hollywood attempts to identify evil with aliens or newly revived prehistoric monsters may be entertaining but they lack credibility. What possible evil could aliens bring into the world which is not here in multiple forms already? No, in the real world that we live in,

It crouches at the door. It waits for the narrowest gap and enters without knocking. It cannot be pushed into outer space or masked by pleasant bonhomie. Many saddened unbelievers would concede that

evil is with us and in us.

say we have no sin, we deceive sophisticated language for ourselves and the truth is not in us. It is also evident today that

evil is contagious. It spreads faster than any disease. It is communicated by mouth. It is passed on by exposure to the bad attitudes of others. The natural course in our human relationship is to pay back evil for evil; the driver on the motorway cuts in dangerously on the driver of another car who has previously cut in on him; the terrorist group guns down a father of four in a retaliatory killing. The human ego finds it hard to absorb the sins of others and much easier to

ARGUMENTS **FOR EASTER**

ELAINE STORKEY

The natural course in human relationships is to pay back evil with evil. The human ego finds it hard to absorb the sins of others. But Christ did not pass evil on. He soaked it up

contribute to the pool of anger and vengeance. It is almost as if we enjoy keeping score of wrongs. As the escalation of conflict between neighbours seems to show, people even gain some satisfaction if the wrongs they dole out exceed those they endure. That is why evil can penetrate any human stronghold. The morally righteous are no less at risk. The events of Holy Week remind us that evil is able to turn the most moral of majorities into a seething mob of those braying for blood.

We have not even moved far in the way we justify evil. We still try to pretend that it is good. here, at least, Christian ortho- The only difference is that doxy is absolutely right. If we we have developed a more

talking about it. Concepts like "profitability" or "greater choice" can conveniently mask things that on a different evaluation would just be wrong. So we can ignore the mass human misery which follows our trade in arms, or our deals with dictators, for it is better that we have transactions which are profitable rather than lose our competitive place in the world. We can ignore the problems of children growing up with instability and hreakdown, for it is better that we adults choose what suits us, rather than have our freedom

and happiness sacrificed. But it has all been said before. We recall it in Holy Week. "It is better that this man die than have the nation destroyed." Better that this man die? What better world is that? And what better world do we now have with today's justifications?

The sobering message of Holy Week is that we can all come to love evil and hate goodness. We have seen that truth illustrated in broken bodies and wounded lives throughout the centuries, in war, holocaust, genocide, and human destruction. It is an intrinsic part of our own contemporary world.

But, if this message of Holy Week is relevant today, so also is the other one. It is that evil does not have the last word. For it has been fully exposed for what it is, not justified or made benign, but confronted and disarmed. In refusing to pay back evil for evil Christ did not pass it on, fuelling the fires of hatred. He soaked it up, showing us that the goodness of God is more powerful than all the sin in the world.

The implication of this is enormous. It is that ultimately our human significance is not defined by the wrong we do, but by God's love for us. So we have a choice how we shall live. The real tragedy comes when we find it easier to live with the evil than with the love.

Elaine Storkey is president of the Christian development agency Tearfund and is a member of the General Synod

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

BURY: Shirley Joan, 25 March 1999, unexpectedly but peacefully: Wife of John Morley, much loved mother of Matthew and grandmother of Nathaniel and Benjamin. Funeral at St. Pancras Cemetery Chapel. High Road, London N2 on 7 April of 2pm. Flowers to C.R.S. Funerals, 133 High Road, N2, or donations in memory of Shirley Bury to either 10 Liphin's research on Jenner-Hoskin Ward teheque poyable to Special Trustees for the Royal Free Hospital). Royal Free, Pond Street, NW3 2QG, or to Metalwork Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, SW7 2RL.

STAFFORD: Phyllis Diana. On 27 March 1999, aged 84 years. Greatly loved wife of the late Widdrington Richard (Dick), dearest mother of Veronica, David and Lavinia, and loving grandmother of seven grandehildren. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Church, Woldingham, on Wednesday 21 April at 12 noon. Church, Woldingham, on Wednesday 21 April at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, donations if so wished to NSPCC, co B.C. Raker & Son, 15-17 High Street, Calerham CR3 5UE.

EIRTHS, MARKIAGES & DEATHS are charged at ELES a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

Bob Russell MP, 53; Profes-Mr Herb Alpert, musician, 63; Professor Patrick Bateson, Provost of King's College, Cambridge, 61; Mr Richard Chamberlain, actor, 64; Mr Sydney Chaplin, actor, 73; Mr Robbie Coltrane, actor, 49; Sir Roger Cork, former Lord Mayor of London, 52; Mr Alan Duncan MP, 42; Air Marshal Sir Herbert Durkin, 77; Mr Don Poster MP, 52; Mr John Fowles, novelist, 73; Mr David Heneker, composer and lyricist, 93; Miss Shirley Jones,

actress, 65; Mr John Kemp-Welch, chairman, Stock Exchange, 63; Sir Paul Lever, ambassador to Germany, 55; Sir Pat Lowry, former President, Institute of Personnel Management, 79: Mr Ian Mackley, High Commissioner to Ghana, 57; Sir Derek Pattinson, former Secretary General, General Synod of the Church of England, 69; Air Commodore Helen Renton, former Director, WRAF, 68; The Right Rev Dom John Roberts, former Abbot of Downside, 80; Mrs Daphne

Robertson, Sheriff of Glas-

sor Dame Sheila Sherlock. Professor of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital School of Med-

icine, 81: Sir Derek Spencer QC, former MP and Solicitor General, 63; Lord Steel of Aikwood, former MP, 61; Lord Trefgarne, 58; Professor Sir Frederick Warner. chemical engineer, 89; Mr Sidney Weighell, former trade union leader, 77; Mr Nicholas Winterton MP, 61

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: René Descartes. philosopher, 1596; Andrew Marvell, poet, pamphleteer and politician, 1621; John Harrison, horologist, 1693; Franz Joseph Haydn, composer, 1732; Andrew Lang, scholar and poet, 1844. Deaths: John Donne, poet, 1631; John Constable, painter, 1837; Charlotte Bronte novelist 1855: Jesse Owens (James Cleveland), athlete, 1980; Enid Bagnold, novelist, 1981. On this day: in Paris, the Eiffel Tower was inaugurated, 1889; British coalminers went on strike, 1921: the Soviet Union

gow and Strathkelvin, 62; Mr offered to join Nato, 1954; the Dalai Lama was granted political asylum by India, 1959; Hampton Court Palace was badly damaged by fire, 1986. Today is the Feast Day of St Acacius or Achatius, St Balbina, St Benjamin and St Guy of Pomposa.

HELEN DE FREITAS

A Memorial Service for Helen de Freitas will be held on Saturday 15 May at 11am at the Wellington Avenue United Church of Christ, 615 W Wellington, Chicago 60657 USA. Enquiries 0171-435 0502.

DINNERS

Foundation for Science and Lord Jenkin of Roding. Chairman, was in the chair at a Foundation for Science and Technology lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. The Earl of Selborne, Professor **Burton Richter and Profes** sor Julia Goodfellow spoke on "How Interdisciplinary is the Science Base?

LECTURES National Gallery: Colin Wig-

gins, "Orazio Gentileschi (v) Orazio Gentileschi and the Caravaggisti", 1pm; The Rev Nicholas Holtam, Alexander Sturgis, From Exodus to Eucharist", 6.30pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Valerie Holman "The Changing Concepts of Form in Sculpture", 2pm. British Museum: Helen Glaister, "Emperor Qianlong and the Great Collectors of China", 1L30am.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attends receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St. James's Palace, and, as Patron, attends an Ontward Bound Trust Dinner at Buckingham Palace. The Prince of Wales undertakes engagements in Surrey; and, as Patron, Weish National Opera, attends a performance of Hunsel and Gretel at Sadier's Weils Theatre, London ECL.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Hotse Guards, 11am.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

You ask the questions

(Such as: Trevor McDonald, have you ever sat behind the news desk in a jacket and tie, wearing jeans and trainers underneath?)

revor McDonald, 59, is the presenter of the recently launched ITV Evening News, moving on from ITN's News at Ten which be presented for nine years. He has won the Newscaster of the Year award twice and was awarded the OBE in 1992. He began his television career back in his native Trinidad in 1962, and now lives with his wife and son in London.

What is your favourite drink, and why? Kerry Martin, Teeside

Curiously enough, it's water. I've hecome a great fan of sparkling water. Of course, I do like elegant drinks like champagne and the occasional whisky, but I think I would miss water most of all if it were taken away.

Was it your idea to stand up and move around rather than sitting behind your desk as you read the news?

Daniel Packwood, Barnstaple, Devon It was not my idea and I don't move around. We thought it would be nice to see more of our attractive new set - hence the standing position after the commercial break.

Who is the most irritating person you have interviewed? Joan Howarth, Wimbledon, London Tve been terribly fortunate in never interviewing irritating people. In any event, they would make terrible interviewees.

Were you surprised at Prince Charles's ontrage at News At Ten being replaced by the ITV Evening News? Did you think the move was a good idea? Campbell Fraser, Ipswich, Suffolk

I was not surprised that Prince Charles talked about News at Ten moving, because the programme became a national institution. Our purpose now is to make sure the 6.30pm Evening News does the same.

Have you come into contact with racism, institutional or otherwise, during your career in television? Nigel Graves, Combridge

What different character traits in yourself and your brother led you to have a serious broadcasting job with an English



accent and he to have a fun radio job fin Canada] with a Caribbean accent? Sean Lineham, Highgate, London I think we both speak in very much the same way, with an emphasis on good language, clarity and accessibility.

Have you ever sat behind the news desk in a jacket and tie, wearing jeans and trainers underneath? Rebecca Percy, Stroud, Gloucs No - I am boringly conventional.

When was the last time that you caught Margaret Anderson, Harrow nuinely cannot remember.

Some people feel that all that matters now in television is the race for money and ratings. Do you agree? Deborah Haynes, Acton, London

I do not believe - but neither does ITV in ratings at any cost. But I do think that

rammes because they want them to be seen by as many people as possible.

Do Jon Snow's ties represent a daily challenge to yon? James Ribble, Stonebridge Park, London No. We each have our own distinctive taste

What is your favourite sport, and why? Will Lewis, Learnington Spa, Warks

every week and I am beginning to convince myself that I'm getting better at it. And can I say I like golf and cricket, too?

The scandal over the Vanessa show has proved that we can't believe everything we see on television. Is it true that even news stories are sometimes fabricated? Gary Kemp, Shenfield, Esser

Never. We may not always get them right, but we must always try to be fair, accurate Tennis. This is because I play the game and well-balanced in everything we report. GRIFF RHYS-JONES, FOLLOWED BY



comedian Griff Rhys-Jones and cricketing legend Ian Botham, to: You Ask the Questions, Features. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182, or e-mail yourquestions@ independent.co.uk), by 12 noon on Friday 2 April

What were your impressions of Glenn Hoddle when you interviewed him? Do you think he is guilty of maligning disabled people?

Chris Maitland, Godstone, Surrey I thought Glenn Hoddle was an honest, decent man who probably expressed himself terribly badly. I did not form the view that he set out to malign disabled people.

How do you plan to celchrate the Beverley D'Souza, Bedminster, Bristol Unfortunately, I think I shall be working.

What was the first record you bought? Kelly Gardner, Ladbroke Grove, London It was something by either Pat Boone or Elvis Presley, I forget which.

If you could host any television show; which one would you choose? Laura Staff. Crouch End. London I am already doing it - the 6.30pm Evening News, I also like doing Trepor McDonald Meets... on ITV2.

What is the most difficult news story that you have had to cover? Julie Cavanogh, Linton, Combs Before the Gulf war, I went to Bagbdad to interview President Saddam Hussein, It was probably one of the most difficult assignments I have ever had.

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Watch out: you've got evil mail

The next time you log on may be your last: thrill-seeking virus creators are at work again. By **Charles Arthur**

MONDAY MORNING was not pleasant for Jennifer Mehlow. "I came in and I had 213 nasty e-mails attacking me," she said. On the previous Friday, she had received an internal e-mail that appeared to come from one of her work colleagues at the PR company Fleishman-Hillard in Austin, Texas. But on opening the attached document, she found a list of bundreds of porn sites on the Weh. Like any well-trained corporate

American, she reported the incident to her computer systems manager: clearly, the colleague was guilty of sexual harassment and porn viewing at work. However, the real damage had already been done. Ms Mehlow was just one of thousands of victims of the Melissa computer virus: while she was gasping in outrage at the porn list, a program embedded in it - called a "macro" - was raiding her electronic address book and forwarding the same document to the first 50 names there, many of them technology reporters. They not the colleague. No surprise that she got rude

replies. Anyone who received the email and opened the attached message could inadvertently spread the virus. Thus hundreds of companies and organisations including financial institutions, military bases and even (to his embarrassment) the governor of North Dakota, were hit.

Since Melissa can spread only by exploiting the flaws in the newer versions of Microsoft's Word and Outlook Express e-mail programs, the schadenfreude among the unaffected was heightened by the news that Microsoft itself was hit. The company shut down its external e-mail system for some hours while it made sure the virus could not propagate within or from it. Yesterday people were counting

the cost: Star Internet, a British Internet access company, reported that e-mail activity had dropped substantially compared to Monday. Its conclusion was that companies were simply shutting their e-mail systems off from the outside world. For anyone who heard Bill Gates

pontificating last Friday at the London Business School on the merits of giving companies a "digital nervous system", the last few days were a sobering reminder that better technology is not always good news. Mr Gates, head of Microsoft, ex-



tolled the idea of letting everyone in a company swap information digitally, and suggested that the ideal would be the elimination of paper almost achieved at his company.

Faced with that unleavened opt-

imism, the arrival of Melissa - which was probably beginning its odyssey around the world as Mr Gates took the stage - demonstrates an increasing weakness that pervades modern computer systems. In biology if the members of a herd are too genetically similar a single disease can wine them out. Ditto with computer systems: as Microsoft becomes increasingly dominant, the users of its programs are open to weaknesses that they may not know exist - until it is too late.

Thousands of companies today rely hlindly on Microsoft's word processing and e-mail packages. But for anyone with a sense of mischief, writing a mini-program (called a "macro") that is embedded in a document and does what Melissa does is the work of a few hours.

Efforts to track down the virus author began soon after the first copies of "list.doc" (the website list) were identified as the virus-carrier. Netizens rapidly decided that the audows 98, and was connected to a net-cause destruction and damage.

work. They also knew who made the network connector. That information was extracted from the document itself - automatically inserted, without the user's knowledge, hy Microsoft Word (a revelation that caused outcry a few weeks ago).

If "John Holmes" is the culprit, he probably is not a power-crazed maniac, à la Ernst Stavro Blofeid. sitting in state stroking his cat. More likely he will be a teenager, who spends most of his time in his bedroom, undisturbed by his Midwestern American parents, who is fascinated by computers and especially in controlling them. His motive is not to get rich; it is to get noticed by his peers - other virus-writers.

Most virus-writers are adolescents with a point to prove." says David Emm, an anti-virus specialist. They're usually bored and frustrated and they take on virus-detectors to try to prove bow clever they are. Most are very competitive, but lose interest in their early twenlies."

Strange as it may seem, computer backers, who are generally the same age, hate virus-writers, seeing them as people who do not respect the machines they target. Hackers find thrills in entering and controlthor's name was John Holmes, that ling another computer. Virus-writers he was running Windows 95 or Win-send their progeny out, usually to

Melissa is part of the new generation of viruses which have appeared since computing became integrated into the modern husiness world. In the Eighties, primitive viruses relied on floppy disks to spread. The arrival of electronic mail in the Nineties, and of "attachments" (files such as word processing documents and spreadsheet files), meant information could be spread far faster than ever before. So could viruses.

Attachments gave rise to the "macro" virus, developed within Microsoft by a freelance. Though his identity is unknown, he apparently realised one day in 1995 while tinkering with Microsoft Word that he could create a virus-like program using its macros. Called "Prank" or "Concept" by virus-cataloguers, its first recorded appearance is on a CD-Rom sent out in early 1995 by Microsoft to program-developers.

The corporation has always been uncomfortable about the fact that first DOS and Windows, its worldswallowing operating systems, and then Word, have been so prey to virus-writers. In 1996 Stuart Anderson, then Microsoft UK's support services manager said: "To consider taking out the functionality [that makes macro-viruses feasible] would be a step back. I mean, can you have too much functionality?"

After this weekend, you would tend to answer. yes. By yesterday there were at least three new "strains" of Melissa whirling around, one named "Papa" and using Microsoft's Excel spreadsheet rather than

Word to propagate, and copying it-

self to 60 people rather than 50. If nothing else, the problems of macro-viruses have shown the weakness inherent in Microsoft's dominance of both business software and home PCs. Many people are paranoid about downloading files from the Internet - a fear which hoaxers exploit by creating messages that warn: "If you get an e-mail entitled JOIN THE CREW then don't open it, it will destroy your computer!! Send this message to 50 friends to warn them too!!" The only difference about Melissa, of course, is that it automates the sending

Meanwhile the anti-virus business has become a worldwide industry worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

But while it is the virus-writers who create the potential for damage, to some extent the users and the writers of the software have to shoulder some hlame. If Word macros could not automatically access the electronic address book Melissa would be impossible; if the e-mail program could not automatically open a document; and so on. "Sure, the problem is the default settings Microsoft puts in," said Jack Clark of Network Associates International, an anti-virus company. "But people want functionality. We always encourage people to change the defaults."

In the end, virus-writers will always find a way in - especially with more and more inexperienced users who want less and less involvement with their machines. To quote a comment spotted on the Internet yesterday: "If you make it idiot-proof, they will make a better

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

other day, I did a double-take. Had the war spread to central London? A blonde babe wearing camouflage combat trousers and a fleece jacket was talking into her mobile phone, looking more Kosovo than Bond Street. A couple of Soho film producers in bright yellow Prada Gore-Tex jackets looked like they should be putting out a fire rather than enjoying a business lunch.

Urban utility wear, which started out as an anti-fashion statement reserved for the loved-up E generation, has come out of the trip-hop clubs and on to the catwalk. Cuttingedge fashion designers have gone Pac-a-Mac crazy. For its spring collection, Prada sent models down the catwalk in neoprene walking skirts and trekking boots, and those sometime purveyors of sophisticated style, Louis Vuitton and Ralph Lauren, have gone cagoule mad. Instead of smart jackets and lacy cardigans, it's Millets meets army surplus store.

Otherwise sensible girls with perfect hair and make-up swan around the Met Bar. China White'a and other trendy watering holes in sleeveless Puffa jackets and shapeless track pants looking as if they're about to attend a militant feminist meeting rather than giggle and drink champagne.

What's happened to good old sex-on-legs clothing? Oh, you remember: plunging necklines and stockings from Agent Provocateur begging to be torn off in a frenzy of sexual desire? Am I the only Nineties chick without anything with storm flaps or a goose-down lining?

Of course, my hip sisters will say, I am missing the point. Nike walking boots and North Face Puffa jackets are not about denying one a sexuality, they say: it expresses the postfeminist nonchalant attitude to dressing. The modern urban chick is relaxed about her sexuality; she doesn't need to display her wares in an overtly sexual manner. Why teeter on stilettos when you can slouch in a pair of Birkenstocks?



Utility girl: Nicky Appleton of All Saints. Big Pictures

Clothing to me means sexual power. On the Continent, no self-respecting woman would be seen without her figureenhancing tailleur or four-inch beels. To her, part of being a woman is about dressing up and creating glamour.

Of course, unisex dressing is nothing new; women have been adopting male clothing since the Twenties when Coco Chanel encouraged women to wear loose-fitting trousers. But these were feminine and fluid, and flattered the female form. Similarly, the militant feminists of the Seventies swanned around with a copy of The Female Eunuch, dressed in mannish suits with widelapelled shirts and waistcoats (remember Charlie's Angels?), The aim was to reconstruct male clothing to show the female form to advantage.

I am not advocating a return to the prim and proper Fifties, when a woman's only assets were her petite waistline and cordon bleu cooking skills. But Girl Power is not just about the choice to wear what you want, but to be, you know, a girl.

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Dress, £90, by French Connection, 249 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-399 7200); floral coat, £1,420, by Paul Smith Women (enquiries 0171-379 7133)

They call me mellow yellow



Top, £495, by Owen Gaster, from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-580 9984); satin swuray pleat skirt, £165, by The Scotch House, 84 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 0171-495 5767). Photographer: Anna Stevenson. Stylist: Holly Wood. Hair: James Mooney at Paul Windle, using Bumble and Bumble. Make-up: Firyal Arneil, using Lancôme. Model: Mairead Mchugh at take two

Avoid the sulphurous and wear it washed out – and you, too, can carry off the season's hottest colour. By Rebecca Lowthorpe



Left Gingham shirt, £140, by Paul Smith Women, 41 Floral Street, London WC2

Right Jumper, £69.95, by Karen Millen, 262-264 Regent Street, London W1 (enquiries 01622-664 032); check skirt, £35, by Warehouse (enquiries 0171-278 3491)



f you don't like colour, you have a fashion crisis on your hands this season. Sorry to cause alarm, but this is not one of those insignificant trends aimed at fashion's underground movers and shakers. This is a surging, all-encompassing movement that targets everyone, whether you shop at Westwood or Warehouse, Marks & Spencer or MaxMara.

Designers have fallen head over heels colour - vivid, eye-popping colour, that is, Fuchsia, emerald, aquamarine, coral, turquoise, melon, ruby, lilac, crimson... you get the picture.

Call it a fashionable whim, an inevitable backlash to the interminable seasons of grey, or a last-minute surge of optimism at the end of the century. For whatever reason, sludge is out, colour is in — and with

Alarm bells started to ring when the triumvirate masters of monochrome - Calvin
Klein, Helmut Lang and Tom Ford at Gucci
- smattered their usual slick but sober cat
walks with throbbing shades of neon pink,
electric blue and splashy tropical flower
prints. The fashion editors blinked hard behind their black shades, quivered with excitement in their black uniforms and
comptly started buying up the world's
stock of brightly coloured pashminas.

But for even the most colour-friendly fashion editor, there is one spectrum that is causing widespread panic - yellow. From Marni's egg-yolk felt skirts to Martine Sitbon's sulphurous sunflower shell tops, to banana silks at John Rocha and Byblos, yellows are regarded with deep suspicion. Is there any wonder? Yellow seems to endow most complexions with a deathly pallor. It's the difference between the bilious look of the Norwich City Canaries and the Brazilian national football team who, in their dynamic yellow kit, look the picture of health

Still, if there's any time to try out yellow, it's now. After all, this is the season of fluffy chicks, daffodils and, of course, Easter eggs. "It's a great colour for Easter, especially if you want to be recognised in a crowd," says Caroline Bennett of Color Me Beautiful. "And it's good for cheering yoursel tup, too." What's more, it doesn't have to be a violent strain of yellow. As the pictures on this page prove, yellow of the pale." interesting variety—can look, well, pale

and interesting.

Paul Smith, never a designer to put anything on the catwalk that won't work in real life, tried out a shade he calls "washed-out lemon", which be says illuminates even the milkiest of skin tones. "It's a warm shade that gives a fresh and optimistic feel after so much deadening black, which now looks so dead." His advice is to keep sharper shades away from your face and wear softer tones with pure white or dusty pastels. (Check out his custard-cream duster

Owen Gaster may hall from the other side of the design tracks to Smith, but even he refused to inflict us with a searing yellow at his spring/summer show. "I know

coat dappled with pink roses, above.)

yellow can look dodgy on white skin, but this milky lemon shade gave a softer spin to my collection," he says thoughtfully. But does this 29-year-old designer wear yellow himself? "Yeah. One of my favourite jumpers is a yellow Pringle, but I only wear it on Sundays.

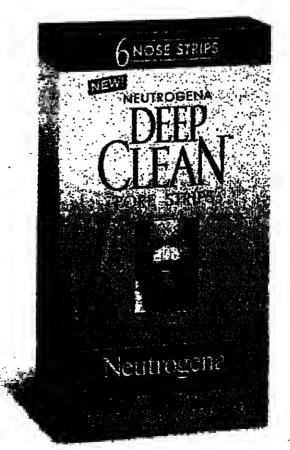
"You've got to be brave to wear yellow," says Gaster, who adds that the key to wearing bright yellow is to match it with an equally strong red. His tip is simply to "wear it with confidence".

Where designers lead, the high street follows, in this case cautiously. "Don't wear it from head to toe!" laughs Lucinda Lee, head of design at Warehouse. "It's not a difficult colour to wear if you mir it with others – black, denim or white. Whatever you do," she warns, "wear it in moderation." Warehouse's range includes strappy vests, fitted cotton shirts and knitted twinsets in the softest primrose.

Karen Millen, the mistress of sharp tailoring on the high street, is never one to shirk from the hottest vibrant colour trend. She says the way to make yellow look fresh and modern is to wear it with pale greys (see, last season's wardrobe will still come in handy) and sporty blacks but it "looks sharpest and strongest as an accent to clean, stark white".

So, the experts say it's possible. If you follow their advice you won't end up resembling a big chicken or looking jaundiced. And looking on the (bright) side of things, next season's big colour frend is orange. Next there's a tricky colour.

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The mother of all Bubbles

be first time I met Jane Horrocks, I didn't take to her at all. The second time I met her, I practically fell in love. Such are the psychodynamics of the interview. My first was in September 1995, in the dressing-room of a photo-studio. Jane sat opposite the mirror; I was perched to one side. We did our best to maintain a conversation while a make-up artist fluttered around her face. She was about to open as Lady Macbeth in Mark Rylance's production of the Scottish play. "Td say that 95 per cent of the productions I've seen of Shakespeare have been abysmal," she proclaimed, with regal

The RSC tradition, she said, encouraged snobbery and elitism. The idea that actors required training to speak blank verse was "Bollocks! It's just bollocks." But the Rylance production, in which Horrocks's Lady Mac would urinate, live on stage, was going to break new ground. "I did Macbeth at Rada and I always wanted to do it professionally, hut with the right person. There's no point playing Lady Macbeth unless you respect your Macheth, and I really do respect Mark."

The more I heard, the more I suspected that this would be sort of theatrical debacle that only Macbeth can engender. Sure enough, the production was thoroughly panned, and Horrocks has recently been reported as saying that the experience of her nightly wee put her off stage acting for good. But if her feelings about Macbeth have changed, there are other aspects of her life and character that must surely have stayed the same.

"I learnt the art of acting quite early on," she said. "I could wrap my parents round my little finger, but I had two brothers who were quite tough going, so I had to fight for attention. They put me in my place. It used to be, 'Oh shut up, Jane, yer bloody thick.' But they are more in awe than they used to be.

She didn't want to discuss her then hoyfriend, the theatre director Sam Mendes, and seemed on the cusp of some sort of personal change, "I think I was quite ambitious when I was in my twenties, but now I'm looking for something else. I'm just not as satisfied as I used to be by things. I get bored really, really quickly. I'm not nat-urally contented. I wish I was, but I have a very vivid imagination and unless that's used, I get really frustrated."

Now cut to February 1999. I met Jane Horrocks again in a restaurant in Twickenham. This time we were discussing Hunting Venus, an insubstantial but enjoyable TV movie about an Eighties New Romantic pop group, reunited for a comeback show by their sole remaining fans, a pair of lesbians, one of whom is Horrocks. It stars Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey and was scripted by the 37-year-old screenwriter Nick Vivian, Horrocks's partner and the father of ber two-year-old son.



Jane Horrocks: Jennifer Saunders had only to exaggerate her natural character to create Bubble in 'Absolutely Fabulous'

est of bumps to suggest her condition. (A daughter, Molly, was born 10 days ago.) And across a small table, something became apparent that had not been obvious at my previous side-on interview: she is ravishingly pretty, with huge blue eyes set in a delicate, elfin face. Not that this was of any use to me, because those eyes spent most of the time looking at Nick Vivian, sitting next to ber, with the mixture of amusement, adoration, possessiveness and absolute openness that women reserve for those whom

"It's such a relief not to be talking about Little Voice," she said. The couple were just back from attending the Golden Globes awards in Hollywood. Horrocks had been nominated Best Actress in a Comedy for her performance as the Northern wallflower who can sing like Garland, Holliday and Bassey, but she lost out to Gwyneth Paltrow. They'd sat at a table a few feet from Jim Carrey. The whole place had been teeming with superstars. "That sort of hype is so alien to the world as we know it," said

rassing. What have Mum and Dad and your brothers and sisters got to do with the film? And thanking God - it's pitiful."

The occasion had given her no desire to go West in search of superstardom: "Airport photographers caught us getting off the plane from LA. I never thought it would happen to me, so I'd made no effort. Imagine what it must be like having to spend two bours in the loo before you land, preparing for the cameras." Outside it began to rain. Jane peered

anxiously through the window. "I'm worried about my washing," ahe said, "I'm a washing obsessive. If Steven Spielberg called up on laundry day and offered me a film I'd say, hang on a second, I'm doing And if a big Hollywood star wanted her

as his on-screen partner? "It depends what the script was like. If it's rubbish, what's the point?"

Er... money, usually. She grimaced. "Money's not my thing."

In these more relaxed circumstances,

Jennifer Saunders had only to exaggerate her natural character to create Bubble, the daffy secretary in Ab Fab. We started talking about Hunting Venus. Nick Vivian had been toying with the story for years. At the start, Jane was just an actress whom he admired, but who kept turning down offers to appear in things he'd written: "Two things," she interject-ed. "And one of them was for charity." By the time he finally sat down to write, they were living together. (The thing that made the difference to their relationship, Nick said later, was drink.)

As be wrote, Nick discussed his new script with Jane. Or, at least, be tried to. "I always used to show Jane bits and bobs of what I was writing, but I've learnt not to do that any more - there's an immediate response of boredom." Horrocks: "He reads them out to me in a pompous fashion. I'd rather read it on the page." Vivian: "She's right. It's much better to keep my trap shut until it's finished." A pause, then Horrocks again: "He's not an actor, when Now deep into the third trimester of her Jane. "You can only stand open-mouthed. both Jane's wit and ber comic timing be-all's said and done." She, like every one of had spent the entire game agonising about second pregnancy, she had just the neat- And the speeches are downright embar- came more evident. It was easy to see how the film's thirty-something cast, had fond his career.

memories of the New Romantic era. "I remember going to this club in Ribchester, where I lived, called the Lodestar. They played Bryan Ferry, Bowie and a bit of Adam Ant. It was such a weirdo period, but very exciting. There was a threat in the air about those clubs - well, there certainly was about that one. They used to hit people with hits of wood.

"I did a fashion show for a local hairdresser called Tony Winder. He dyed my hair pink and did it all up a la New Romantic and he'd roped in these other three girls who were proper punks and really quite hard. So they came down the catwalk to Bow Wow Wow and everyone was silent with fear Then I came dancing down and they all roared with laughter. I went, 'Why? I look hard as well. I look tough. Why are you laughing at me?' I was furious."

Talking about the making of Hunting Venus, Jane recalled that she watched the England vs Argentina World Cup match with Neil Morrissey, in the hotel where they were staying while on location. Morrissey

"I was in the Soho House with Kathy

oyd that night," interrupted Nick Vivian. Feeling her husts," said Jane. "I wasn't...

"You were feeling her busts brushing

against you." Vivian defended himself, "When Sol Campbell scored, I flung my arms round Kathy, only to realise that she bad turned round, so I had one hand on each breast. I said, "I'm terribly sorry; Kathy." She said, "It doesn't matter, we've scored." So when it was disallowed I felt like a terrible old fraud. But she didn't seem to

"That's his story," said Jane, in mock indignation.

I paid the restaurant bill and we went out into the south London drizzle. Jane and Nick needed to buy something for supper. I last saw them wandering off in search of a butcher. None of the passers-by recognised the tiny blonde in the baggy coat. Jane Horrocks didn't seem to mind that at all.

Hunting Venus', tonight, 9pm, ITV

Closing time, gentlemen, please

THE VERY idea of a Status Quo pub tour seems appropriate. After all, the East End hoys made good have donc little more than purvey the most straightforward boogie for more than 30 years now.

The idea of playing a series of dates for long-serving fan cluh members in such venues as this - a shrine to heavy rock where the likes of Iron Maiden started out on their road to world domination - makes a lot of sense. Basic music in basic surroundings - it has to be better than vile barns such as the NEC and the Wembley Arena, 'of British culture as jellied eels and venues that positively discourage drinking and dancing, and generally getting any. er, rocks off.
The Ninehes have hardly been

kind to the Quo. Hits have tailed off, and their attempt to sue Radio 1 in 1995 after a pretty limp remake of "Fun Fun Fun" with the Beach Boys was left off the play list (a bemused

STATUS QUO RUSKIN ARMS. MANOR PARK, LONDON

Brian Wilson was seen on The Des O'Connor Show, skulking at the back and looking as if he'd rather be in rehab than on stage), came across to many as a publicity stunt that backfired. But although their appeal may have become more, uh, selective over the years, they're still as much a part the Queen Murn, two other things that many people could happily do without.

Their influence, however, is undeniable, if unconscious. How many aspiring musicians must have watched them on Top of the Pops, thought "I could do that" and improved on the template? At the height of the Britpop Wars, the Quoasis T-shirt sold by the Mancunian pretenders was a knowing nod to detractors.

The "home of heavy metal" must be smaller than the rooms Quo rehearse in. But the crowd - clearly unaware of denim's unfashionability lapped them up in their natural surroundings. For at a distance of 30ft or less, these 50-somethings still rock, or boogie at least. Francis Rossi (as ever sporting a

ponytail and grandad shirt) looked more comfortable than his long-time cohort Rick Parfitt (tanned, wearing a gold guitar pendant, and looking less than awed by his surroundings). "Again and Again", "Sweet Caroline", a medley including "Mystery Song" and "Wild Side of Life" that defies critical analysis were all neat, noisy and intact.

Yet the years roll on. An unexcep-tional "Rocking All Over The World", which must have funded a few law-



Status Quo's influence is undeniable if unconscious

American curmudgeon John Fogerty, seems perfunctory. As they rushed through a verse each of Fifties rock'n'roll classics as an encore, you

suits for its author, the legendary felt time closing in on them. Ashes to ashes, pubs to pubs.

> A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

Whoops! **Apocalypse**

DREAMING BEGINS with cannonfire: Boom Boom, Later. "There's a fly in my soup." "Til get a spider." Boom Boom.

This is the kind of juxtaposition Peter Barnes loves. Irreverence is his trustiest weapon, and, as the lead character Mallory says, "nothing is sacred or powerful unless you make it so". Thus Christ steps off a crucifix to kvetch about his father, and Skelton, who longs for death, rails against the spring: "All that renewal." Barnes's model tone, and im-

agery, draws upon the sardonic grotesquerie of Brueghel and Bosch and this new play is set in the apocalyptic closure of the Middle Ages, specifically after the Battle of Tewkesbury, 1471. The Wars of the Roses pauses to gasp for breath, and Mallory, a saddened captain. sets off for home. His companions are the reluctant survivor Skelton, Davy, a mercenary boy, Bess who knows the world is too weary for her hard-bitten wisdom, and later Kell, a priest who has defrocked himself.

Although the home and family Mallory abandoned have been destroyed, Mallory continues what becomes a metaphorical quest in which home becomes "Home". Acquiring a new wife on the way, he and his band battle on.

They traverse an borrific, symbolic landscape brilliantly realised in Stephen Brimson-Lewis's design, with its glass floor where the dismembered dead are buried like specimens in a case. Under Alan Burrett's lighting this becomes by turns a skating lake, a swamp and a river. Even so the play's allegorical weight becomes hard to bear, not least because the work contradicts itself in To 10 April (0161-833 9833)

THEATRE DREAMING ROYAL EXCHANGE

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MANCHESTER both style and substance. Skelton says life is a journey; Davy says it is a race; Bess says it is a dance. Led by ber, they then perform a beautiful little sand shuffle. In that hint of Wilson, Keppel and Betty is the irreverence again, and dancing which is graceful, pointless and stays on one spot is the right

metaphor for this vision. But Barnes finally lays more stress on Mallory's sacred journey, and despite Gerard Murphy's imposing, welted presence, the character is empty, has little to say and ends as a surprisingly romantic hero silent upon a snowy peak, fixed forever in the icy fastness of the purity of his vision. If ever there was a moment for Boom Boom- or Bert Brecht - this is it.

Yet when the comic cannonfire is at its thickest there are plenty of misses. In the first. long 70 minutes, although Barnes'a extravagant imagination is pedalling hard, and the costumes waving frantically. director Matthew Lloyd never seems to lift the show to a manic enough level. The best moments are in the acting: Greg Hicks's saturnine Skelton. Paul Jesson's pained joviality as Kell, Richard Bremmer's lanky Crouchback and, best of all, a performance of wonderful ease and subtlety from Dilys Laye as Bess, really the play's most interesting character - its true Mother Courage.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

The Passion retold in minimalist form

JONATHAN HARVEY is a composer whose range of interests includes the Sanskrit Rig Veda, electronic music. Stockhausen and the theosophy of Rudolf Steiner. On Thursday at St John's Smith Square, however, the focus of his work turned powerfully on to a subject whose resonance is as old as it is central to the European tradilion: the Easter story.

At this time of year, choirs and orchestras need no excuse to tell out the myth as superbly recounted in Handel's Messich or the Bach Passions. Easter, after all, is the essential Christian festival, and what with the re-paganisation of Christmas into a mid-winter orgy, perhaps the only one that remains uniquely spiritual in

CLASSICAL JONATHAN HARVEY

ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE LONDON

its concern with the full meaning of the Incarnation. Top marks, none the less, to those valiant upholders of contemporary music, Sinfonia 21, for daring to programme a modern account of the Passion, Harvey's religious drama, Passion and Resurrection, written in 1981, and predating the revivalist mood of more recent works by so-called "faith minimalist" composers.

with the simplest of liturgical mater- in registral extremes.

ial: part of the communion rite from the Book of Common Prayer, "do this in remembrance of me", sung in John Merbecke's 16th-century setting by members of the BBC Singers, conducted by Martin Neary.

The 11 sections that flowed from this opening each followed the pattern of scene and interlude. Urgent telegraphic paraphrases of events in sung dialogue preceded no less pungently elliptical depictions of events set in terms of instrumental music. These latter, that of the seizing and binding of Christ, for example, were late-Stravinskian in flavour, feral bundles of biting and scratching solo Passion and Resurrection began strings set at odds with one another

In contrast, the evening's other into the final episode, "The Resurcharacteristic sound was that of the musical "halo", whether of delicate violin harmonics enrobing the majestic voice of Stuart McIntyre's Jesus, or the shining organ clusters that accompanied the congregational singing of the plainsong hymns Pange Lingua and Verillo Regis.

If Judas was for Elgar the figure of buman interest in The Apostles, then for Harvey in Passion and Resurrection, it was Pilate who assumed a rounded dimension, in so far as the schematic form allowed. Tightly controlled, the drama, which existed as much in the pauses and violent dissolves between scenes as within them, was cumulative, resolving itself

rection Garden". Here, in music dominated by Alison Smart's Mary Magdalene, and the Tippett-like radiance of Christ's closing monologue, the crux of the story was apparent: physical regeneration not dreamed of in heaven, but occurring somewhere downstairs in our reality.

Whether or not your disbelief was willingly suspended, the ending was impressive: a final blessing, then echoing fanfares from trombones, horns and tuba processing through the audience and outside, via church doors flung open to the four winds, the four elements, and the four imagined corners of the world.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

MI By David Line

Whoops

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End of the * winter of discontent?

Accused of lacklustre acting, mediocre direction and poor leadership, can the Royal Shakespeare Company recover its credibility? Artistic director Adrian Noble gives a rare interview to David Lister

he real dramas often take place backstage. One occurred at the Royal Shakespeare Company earlier this year. Adrian Noble, by far the most shy and reserved of the institution's four artistic directors over the past 38 years, lost his cool.

It has been a difficult three years for Noble. He has endured what he considers to be a campaign of vitriol since he took the RSC away from London for six months of the year Productions have been accused of mediocrity, the acting company has been accused of a lack of charisma, and Britain's foremost classical company has been accused of having an unclear policy platform.

Noble suffered in silence. He gave virually no interviews, though privately he at bewildered at the lack of acknowledgement of his efforts to modernise the company and widen the repertoire; his plans to rebuild the main house in Britain for the benefit of audiences, actors and directors; and his success in taking the company to towns in Britain that had never seen the RSC.

Then one attack too many made even this most languid of individuals blow a fuse. A Sunday newspaper critic wrote that the company had suffered a dismal falling-off and could not attract top-class actors or directors and that there were fatal flaws in leadership. Noble wrote to him at his home address saying he was "angry and appalled", and flayed him for "unattributed tittle-tattle, inaccuracies and half-truths".

When I met Adrian Noble in his office at the Barbican for his first wide-ranging interview for a long time, he was still resentful about the criticism. However, the me-too-familiar glow of consistently good reviews for the company's opening shows brings a lustre to the "new confidence and vigour" he discerns in the company.

"I have been radical in what I have done," he said, "but I have had three years of criticism. And, yes, I do believe it is because of my decision to move the compa-



"The critics are against modernisation. It has been a bumpy three years. The agenda was to create new energy. I believe that was a vital task. We can now programme more flexibly and tackle issues more creatively in terms of casting, touring and repertoire.

"The fact that it created ructions internally and externally is no surprise. I did find it surprising that a lot of journalists found it difficult to address the broader ageoda. I think there has been a feeding frenzy in the press at the expense of the RSC which has led to quite a number of unjust attacks on its productions and actors.

"Stephen Poliakoff says that if he does a play at the National Theatre, they write about the play. At the RSC, half of the review is about the RSC's policy. There's no question that the critics' agenda is our leaving London. But what we have done has become government policy.

*The Government is interested in qualregretted the decision to leave London. It's opened up the repertoire."

Most importantly, not just for what it says about the repertoire but for what it says coaxed into Shakespeare, Noble is insistent pauses for a long time.



on opening up the main stage at Stratford to non-Shakespearian productions, as he did last year with The School for Scandal and the show that has had a huge impact on his whole philosophy, his production of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

"We did a lot of research on Lion and it attracted 80,000 newcomers. Of those, 60 per cent were youngsters. It's fantastically important to get young people into the theatre, to own it, to celebrate it. Lion has been amazingly good for the company. In the main house, we always had just Shakespeare and we rarely did anything that was just for families. From now on, every season will have something purely for the fam-

It is, on the one hand, a depressing admission that despite the euphoria surrounding Shakespeare in Love, the real thing now needs gateway family shows to draw in new audiences. But on the other hand, if the productions are as well received ity but also in who sees the work. I've never as The Lion, the Witch and the Wordrobe an education centre in Stratford. Imagine and The School for Scandal, then it could be an effective route into Shakespeare.

Should we not be absolutely honest and admit that it is becoming harder to get autiben pull down from the digital archive four about how audiences now need to be diences to come to Shakespeare? Noble

"Look, Shakespeare is trickier than ten to Peggy Ashcroft do it, then talk about Blur. But it's to do with how we teach people at school. Shakespeare isn't easy stuff for young people. Of course it isn't. Theatregoing needs to be a habit and teaching

Aidan McCardle and Sirine Saba in this season's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'; left, Adrian Noble

needs to be as imaginative as possible."
On the latter point, he intends to lead the way. Last week, the RSC received a basketful of good notices for both Volpone and A Midsummer Night's Dream. But for Noble the most significant event of the week related to his vision of the company's educational role. He signed up Clare Venables, principal of the Brit School of Performing Arts and Technology and former director of the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, as his new head of education. It is a high-profile appointment that af-

firms his new and wider remit. Noble becomes visibly excited as he says: "We will have demonstrations, lectures and many more show-related events. I would like, as part of our rebuild, to have one you could spend a day in: in the morn- Richard III. ing do a voice session with Cicely Berry, see Romeo and Juliet in the afternoon, versions of Romeo and Juliet. Of course,

it. The tip of the iceberg is the performance. At the moment we have no education centre; we hire a church hall. It's pathetic."

On stage, one of the more hurtful criticisms must have been that the standard of verse-speaking had fallen. Noble came into the job in 1991 pledged to improve versespeaking. He acknowledges the difficulties caused by the lack of proper classical training in drama schools. But he has instigated the most intensive work on versespeaking in the company's history-weekly three and a half-hour verse-speaking workshops for the entire company. And while it is hard not to look back nostalgically just a few years to a company that included Smon Russell Beale, Robert Stephens, John Wood and Amanda Root, Noble is adamant that the new arrangements are attracting high-calibre actors again.

Some critics have detected a change in Lindsay's show-stealing tour de force as tion will rally round.

personalities of all the cast were complementing what Bob was doing. The summer season is the centre of our work, and that's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and 'Volyou'd do Baz Luhrmann, but you'd also lis- a company that's no different from the pone' at the RSC Stratford (01789 295623)

companies we have had in Stratford for 38 years."

And what of those who disagree, arguing that at times the quality does not run right through the company, a point made in private by directors as well as critics?

"I don't know how to answer that," says Noble. "I didn't find that in the company that did The Tempest or The Merchant of Venice. I watched the run-throughs of Volpone and the actors were wonderful."

After a long and steady battering, Noble can now look with satisfaction at the statistics. Three years after "leaving" London, the RSC has in the past year heen seen by more people at various London venues than it was over a similar period in its fulltime Barbican days, and the new Stratford season has taken £2m in bookings.

"The company is demonstrating great vigour and self-confidence," he says. And, casting himself a trifle bizarrely as a dracompany ethos, most notably in Robert matic Kevin Keegan, he believes the na-

"I don't go to football, but I support the "I think it's unfair," says Noble. "The national team. I want people to feel that same ownership of the RSC."

ON THE FRINGE

STAND UP OLD RED LION III UP AGAINST THE WALL TRICYCLE LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT ORANGE TREE

WHEN SO much hustling and tussling goes on in the dressing-room, it's surprising that performers and productions ever make it to the stage. It's more astonishing still when, going by the shambolic rehearsals for a hlaxploitation musical depicted in Up Against the Wall and the bitchiness of a shahby comedy cluh in Stand-Up, life on the fringe is such a painful one.

Hopefully, Roy Smiles didn't extract his material from his experience as a comedian and compère when writing Stand-Up. Most of his characters are obnoxious egoists. The unhappy clown is a much-used motif, but Smiles doesn't settle for easy clichés; however hitter his comedians feel about their audiences, careers and lives off stage, it can't decrease the buzz they get from performing. The gritty script is littered

with recriminations, shocks and regrets. On one level, it simply compares the perilous ambition and heartlessness of the successful comedians Linda and Tony with the newcomer Debbie's natuete and the circuit regular Mal's combination of stoicism and defeatism. The fact that these people can put their real feelings aside, go on stage and make others laugh is as depressing as it is remarkable.

More impressively, Stand-Up is an emotive panegyric to the things people will do to survive. Harry, the club's gibbonish barman ta lithe Robert Murray), is reduced to unblocking excrement from the ladies' toilet because he needs a job. His incredulous remark that "I come from a shit hole, but you don't expect it to be a life sentence" resonates grimly.



'Up Against the Wall'

Roy Marsden's sharp, engrossing production is beautifully acted by a cast who look at home, yet uncomfortable in Nina Garner's painstakingly designed, skanky dressingroom. There aren't many laughs but, when they come, they rattle with irony and gleam with poignancy. As Smiles's own mockney club owner might put it, this one's a corker.

Up Against the Wall at Kilburn's industrious Tricycle Theatre is heaps of fun but less dramatically successful. Felix Cross and Paulette Randall claim that drama isn't the point of their irreverent musical about putting on a musical; like the play within, it's simply an excuse for the actors to don Afros and flares and sing hits from the Seventies, which they do exceptionally well.

This would be more believable were the script less carefully contrived. There's no stinting on corniness as the lyrics to each song are made relevant to a character's life. The tone grows questionably moralistic when Clinton Blake's drunken director Courtenay bursts into his production wearing a preacher's gown and takes a spliff from the mouth of the bumptious actor Vincent,

otherwise vibrantly performed by Mark McLean.

Thought-provoking moments are few but piquant. particularly Vincent's spinetingling paean to Brixton, which shifts into a topical but gentle rap about police racism. If the crowd were so inclined, the night could develop into one rollicking party, but Black Theatre Co-operative's lighthearted production needs more meat to satisfy.

By contrast, Low Flying Aircraft, the second production from the Orange Tree's new company, is almost too serious in its endeavour to criticise modern life. In its formidable future, London is an annexe to Heathrow Airport, inhabited by disturbed people who control every waking moment with pills. Lianne and Cody's minimalist home, elegantly designed by Tim Meacock, is at once a haven from the planes that roar and flash overhead and a prison of fraught and misunderstood emotions.

Jane Coles's characters are intriguing and Jeremy Crutchley's dislikeable but riveting Cody holds an unsettling power over them all; his mind games with Sarah Tansey's irritating Tara bristle with tension to Dominic Hill's edgy production. But the surreal denouement is unconvincing and the chilly nature of the play doesn't encourage emotional engagement with the

MADDY COSTA

'Stand-Up' (0171-837 7815), to 17 Apr; 'Up Against the Wall' (0171-328 1000), to 17 Apr., Low Flying Aircraft (0181-940 3633). in rep to 24 Apr

To mike or not to mike

The National Theatre is facing a huge scandal over its use of microphones. And not just for musicals. Whatever happened to proper acting? By **David Benedict**

EARS WERE pricking up yesterday at the shock news that actors performing in the National Theatre's Olivier auditorium are now required to wear radio microphones. The most astonishing thing about

this is that this technological "ad-vance" has been established practice in this venue for at least 18 months. This means that either actors there have been barred from discussing it (deeply unlikely) or that there is more to this story than meets the ear. The idea of using gadgetry to compensate for poor vocal technique

goes against everything the profes-

sion holds sacred. Directors who

refuse to go "on the record" - they

want employment at the National in the future - have expressed outrage. The voice, they rightly argue, is at the heart of dramatic expression. Learning to breathe properly to project sound, and combining that with clarity of diction in order to "hit the back wall, is central to actors' training. Is it really time to say goodbye to all that, as would appear to be the case with the news that

Miking a singer to compete with an amplified rock band in a musical is one thing, but Shakespeare? It was in fact Num's predecessor, Richard Eyre, who began this. He temporarily closed the Olivier to redesign it for an in-the-round season in 1997 and at the same time fitted the System for Improved Acoustic

Trevor Numr's production of Troilus

and Cressida is wired for sound?

Performance (SIAP)
As the National's sound designer Paul Groothuis explains, this system, installed around the walls, manipu-



lates the sound. "It has got nothing to do with intelligibility. It merely corrects the acoustical problems of the Olivier."

Nearly every theatre in the country has dead spots, and the vast Olivier is no exception. Even the most perfectly produced voice cannot be easily heard from certain parts of the auditorium. If you clap or say a word, you produce an echo. In the Olivier, the reverberation from the initial sound tends to drown out the echo, thus muddying the effect. You cannot reduce the echo but SIAP clarifies the effect by enhancing the proportions of the latter sound.

The admittedly convincing argument runs that it is no longer good enough to pretend that there aren't acoustically bad seats in the auditorium. The benefits, Groothuis be-

lieves, are enormous. "It becomes more comfortable to listen to. People can then concentrate harder and longer, and understand more."

The downside is that the microphones have to be in prominent places and are very sensitive. That places enormous limitations on the use of stage machinery as even a low hum can destroy the effect. In tandem with SIAP, all sorts of solutions were sought but Groothuis believes that, much as he hates them -"they're a pain in the arse" - radio mikes seem to be doing the best job.

Both directors and the whole sound department were nervous at broaching the idea of mikes with actors as vocally strong as, say, Ian McKellen, who wore one for An Enemy of the People. "There is initial shock," admits Groothuis, but he

claims that after reports back from friends and associates, they realise that this is not a case of amplifica-

tion beyond recognition. "I don't amplify. It's about distributing the sound around the auditorium, putting the actor's voice in a box and moving it to the back of the auditorium." He does, however, concede that they occasionally nudge the sound level up. "But only for crucial technical reasons. If an actor turns upstage. I would never do it with an actor facing the audience." For him, it is a technical tool, somewhat akin to using a sound effect like adding a cavernous echo.

So far, so good, but the danger is that we may be on the edge of a precipice. In this theatre, the system may currently be used responsibly to overcome architectural shortcomings, but what of the future?

It's similar to the opera surtitles debate. Projecting text above the stage is clearly a boon for those who don't know an opera, but it stops you watching the action. In which case, why should a singer struggle to communicate real drama when he

or she could just stand and deliver? Theatre is increasingly reliant on screen stars, many of whom have small voices at best. If someone on the sound desk can twiddle knobs in order to lift their performance into a different realm, there's little in-

centive to work to reach an audience. Everything depends on the subtlety of its application. In America, theatre has succumbed to wholesale amplification. Let's hope the National's usage of it doesn't signal the beginning of the end.

THE INFORMATION DAILY: your unrivalled entertainment guide

pages 15-18

My stage in the City What happens to 'nice boys'?

I WORK FOR...

JOANNA FYVIE IS PA TO JOHN TUSA, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE BARBICAN CENTRE IN LONDON

aving graduated in French and music, I was torn between the two subjects, hut my first job made the decision for me when I was made junior secretary to Jeremy Isaacs at the Royal Opera House.

It was an amazing introduction. I learnt how to be a sounding-board and I realised the importance of allowing bosses to do their job by giv-ing them an environment in which they can be themselves, vent their frustration and express their enthusiasm. Jeremy was demanding, especially since he always needed everything done immediately, but I respected his energy, drive, directness of thought and broad range of interests - an aspect that John shares. I certainly got a taste for working with VIPs.

My next job was a two-year stint with the managing director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The temperament of an orchestra is quite different from that of an opera house, particularly when it is nomadic. I had to deal with 150 people, which made it hard to make attachments. It was also sometimes difficult to communicate financial or strategic issues to the players.

I moved to the Barbican just after John had been brought in to rebuild the centre in terms of both confidence and artistic structure. I knew there would be high expectations and I was almost overwhelmed by the vastness of the centre; but I was attracted by the amount of artistic achievement it involved in John's soon-to-beoffers, both visually and musically. I was surprised that John was present at my first interview, because I hadn't expected to meet him at all at that stage. He struck me as being fits into life. I've followed the book's genuinely interested in me as a person rather than just a recruit.

There's always an opportunity to learn with John, partly because he has such a broad range of interests. He communicates well with me. whether it's when he's briefing me or sharing ideas. As we've built up our working relationship, he has started to include me in his thought processes. Three years on, I think

he has realised my potential. Feeling able to give my opinion when it's appropriate has enriched my work and I have realised that, as and Paul Findlay - my former boss a PA at this level, I have a duty to from the Royal Philharmonic-to the ask why some things are deemed to wedding. They both came, and I was be so important. Questioning is glad that they were there. crucial when working with a VIP because once you can understand the ministration assistant. John told way someone thinks, you begin to know how to work autonomously. There's a lot I am now able to do on turned out to be my double. I must my own, including drafting be doing something right. responses. John gave me an appraisal the other day and I realised

how much I genuinely love being a PA and the sense of fitting in to this environment. Even answering the post gives me a broad range of people to speak to, from arts world people to City executives.

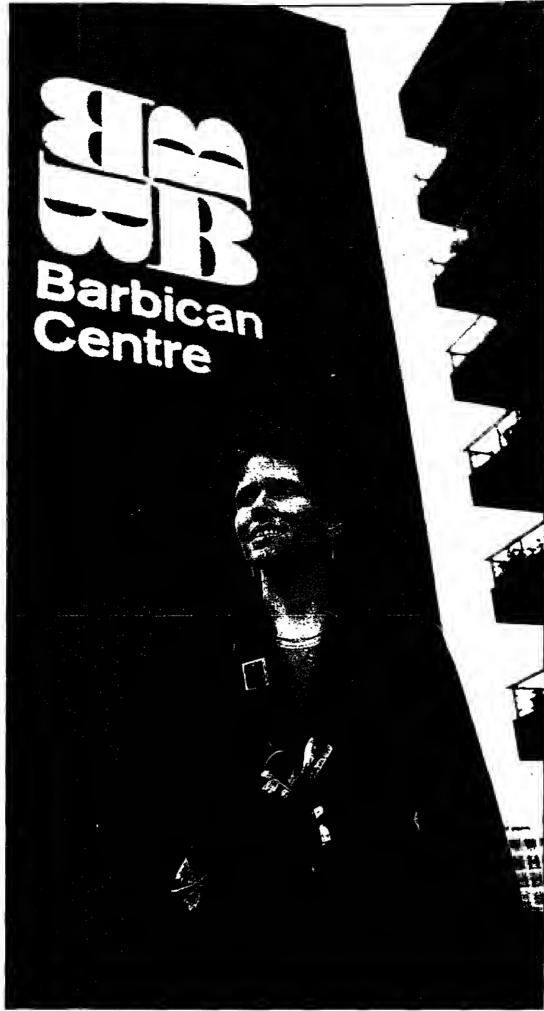
The phone is a constant, particularly now that the Shadow Arts Council has just been announced with Sir Peter Hall as chair and John as one of two vice-chairmen. I was aware of the idea evolving and had a sense of people saying something important about diversity and freedom of opinion in the arts. There's been loads of interest in the oew organisation, particularly as it represents a group of people who came together informally when they felt that the arts were not being adequately reflected in the public arena or relevant institutions. The support panel includes Jeremy Isaacs, which is lovely because it means that we stay in touch.

Last week we also launched "Cityside", a new name to describe the area the Barbican is in. This concept was the result of a meeting between John and the heads of Sadler's Wells and City University during which they complained that while we have terms such as "West End" and "South Bank" there has never been a title for this general area, despite the fact that it is full of art and culture. Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, gave his approval by coming to the launch, and we already have widespread support and enthusiasm from people in the area.

For the last two years I have been published book called Art Matters, in which he deals with a whole range of art-related subjects including funding, and where culture progress both by typing out some of the manuscripts and by attending some of the lectures from which the essays have been taken.

John and I share a sense of humour, which I delight in. I feel that there is a high that comes from our working relationship and rapport as well as from organising things such as receptions for important people in the arts world. I got married last year and although I see family and work as quite separate, it was natural to me that I should invite him

When we were looking for an adme he had a dream that I walked into the office with the new assistant, who



KATIE SAMPSON Joanna Fyvie: "Three years on, I think John has realised my potential"

Mark Chilvers

SO MY mother gets on the phone and has one of her periodical bouts of sighing and wondering what happened to all the nice young men I used to know when I was at school. It's funny how quickly

parental fantasy kicks in: the nice young men she remembers are her friends' sons, and boys she approved of, who lived around the village and spent their holidays playing tennis and killing small animals - rather than the ones who spent their holidays sitting on the bench at the hus stop, smoking. Once I'd got my Saturday job and had enough cash to get into town, I didn't really know boys of either sort, having discovered others who sat around in basements coming down from their exposure to the club scene the night before. But my mum longs for the Ruperts and Rolys, and has convinced herself that these were my social circle then.

So she asks what happened to them all, the implication being that I've gone down in the world; and I think about saying "Well, Mum, they're either using the furnituremaking or horticultural skills they learnt in the frightfully expensive rehab clinics they ended up in after three years at Oxford, or they're getting up at 6am and putting on suits, and are looking from companionship either with women who are on similar income levels or with ones have dedicated their lives to learning the skills that make them an ideal helpmeet. What they don't want to be doing is hanging around with chicks who spend their time filling in for other people's holidays.' But I just say something palliative about how people lose touch, and let her drift off to prume the mses.

In fact, there was an occupation I missed off the list, and that's estate agency. I should have remembered it, as I'm putting in time at the moment with South Kensington's premier realtor (their words, not mine), Investment Estates, and I can bonestly say that I had no idea you could fit so many plums in one mouth without choking. I know estate agents had a tough time of it in the recession, but they've bounced back now, with a vengeance.

And not surprisingly; the upper classes have, after all, to find something to do with their less gifted younger sons now



THE TEMP

that the Church doesn't deal in tied livings much any more. And besides, the sort of people who are looking for a nice house in the Pelham Street area are still generally of the make-up that has problems trusting people with an accent. So I find myself working for

four snakelike professionals

whose lack of accent is so powerful that I find myself jumping out of my skin every time one of them shouts "Yah!!" These people are \$0 accentless that most of their words run together in a hig jumble because they've forgotten both to take time to breathe or to use consonants: if you remember the late Diana, Princess of Wales's pronouncement that her premarital joh was looking "after a mera bay boy" you'll get the basic drift. I don't know what my mum would have to say about these young scamps but no one really seems to do much apart from fight each other to answer the phone when it rings in case it's someone calling to offer them a weekend involving fresh air and guns, and occasionally saunter from the office twirling a set of keys round their index fingers and come back a hit later with a stack of insults about the client. I do a hit of light typing

("Superb three-bedroom mansion flat ideally situated for the shopping amenities of Brompton Cross and close to the open spaces of Hyde Park") and a bit of light telephone-answering "Good morning, Investment Estates, can I help you?"). I think I'm in for an easy ride. There's one problem, though, and that's the name game. I can cope with Henry, Charlie and Caro. hut I still have to fight the urge to giggle when anyone rings and asks for Candida. Maybe the name runs in her family, but I suspect that Candida's parents, coming from a class that calls its daughters all sorts of vogueish things, may have just thought it sounded nice. Maybe, just maybe, they called her sisters Eczema, Psoriasis and Salmonella for the same reason.

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For further details and an application form for either position, please contact the Personnel Advisory Group on 0171 670 5333 (24 hour

answerphone). The closing date for applications is 9 April 1999. An Equal Opportunities Employer.

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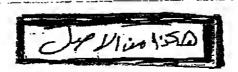
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THE INFORMATION DAILY

CINEMA - THEATRE - EXHIBITIONS - MUSIC - DANCE - LITERATURE - COMEDY - EVENTS - TV & RADIO

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

Pleasantville (12)

idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

that unexpectedly emerge.

Affliction (15)

Shakespeare ...

in: Love (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s

is magnetised by the form of his gardener

Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who

(Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an

a favourite Fifties sittom and begin to exert a

comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family

Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and

fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to

Festen (15)

Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of

dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black

patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets

escape the influence of his violent dad - James Coburn,

NEW FILMS

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18) **Director:** Tony Kaye

Starring: Edward Norton, Edward Furlong Disowned by its director, re-edited by its star, American History X was always going to look messy; a film in bits and pieces. A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide and spasmodic conversion of a blue-collar racist brother. The flashbacks sometimes jar, and the plot turns are clankingly handled. What binds it together is a genuine tour de force from Oscar-nominated Norton, whose full-throttle muscularity clearly scared wavering Academy members over to the more sunny charms of Roberto Benigni.

West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West Pal. And local cinemas

Director: Eric Rohmer

Starring: Beatrice Romand, Alain Libolt The final part of Rohmer's Tules of the Four Seasons is at once airily elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Romand) - middle-aged and single - gets usbered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men, nudging her first towards suave college professor (Didier Sandre), then towards a lonelyhearts respondent (the brilliant Alain Libolt) as the web of intrigue turns progressively more tangled. Don't be put off by the Mills and Boon plot-line. Rohmer's latest is a veritable masterpiece of dabbed-on colours, fluid squiggles and luminous washes. Its little gestures speak volumes; its easy

West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Renoir, Repertory: Phoenix nema, The Pullman Everyman

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)

AFFLICTION (15)

West End: ABC Swiss Centre

West End: Metro, Renoir

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)

the boy's missing father.

West End: Curzon Soho

BELOVED (15)

soul takes the breath away.

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Local: New Stratford Picture House

See The Independent Recommends, above.

smale that's both ridiculous and charming.

Bridges' college professor becoming suspicious

Pellington is big on skewed camera angles, yet rings

too few changes in the film's familiar territory.

West End: ABC Shafteshury Avenue, Clapham

Picture House. Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Swiss

Pulitzer Prize-winner stars Oprah Winfrey.

West End: Ritzy Cinema. And local cinemas

West End: Curzon Maufair, Notting Hill Coronet,

Renoir, Ritzy Cinema. Repertory: Watermans

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK(15)

Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin:

Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression

West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA È BELLA) (PG)

In Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy, the

writer-director takes centre stage as a clownish Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. Sent to a death-

camp, he strives to convince his son that it's all

West End: Empire Leicester Square. Curzon

Minuma, Odcon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine,

Ritzy Cinema. Screen on Baker Street, UCI

Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket

Reportory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

John Fortenberry's indulgent showcase for

Saturday Night Live favourites Will Ferrell and Chris

Kattan is so bovine it moos. Here come our imbe-

cilic heroes: cruising the mall-spaces of LA, while

one ham fisted comedy sequence follows another:

West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

This medical drama is like the ultimate

distillation of the ultimate Robin Williams movie:

Nest End: Empire Leicester Square, Virgin

hife sucked out and replaced by syrup.

Trocadero. And local cinemas

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

among the tourist-brochure visuals.

r. nore than an eccentric game.

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above.

MIGHTY JOE (PG) Director: Ron Underwood

Starring: Bitl Paxton, Charlize Theron Mighty Joe is a mutant gorilla - King Kong with a smile - who hangs out in the jungles of Africa with his Tarzan-type protector (Charlize Theron). Enter zoologist Bill Paxton, who decides to spirit Joe to California, at which point Ron Underwood's holiday jaunt diverts down standard chase-genre (Edward Norton), watched by his adoring younger avenues. Disposable Disney fluff, which boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.

> West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys. And local cinemas

PAYBACK (18) Director: Brian Helgeland

Starring: Mel Gibson This rumbling revenge thriller sends its doublecrossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to retrieve the money be's owed, and get even into the bargain. The ensuing shenanigans AN AUTURIN TALE (CONTE D'AUTOMNE) (U) are played out in a kind of retro-chic Seventies and underpinned by a busy jazz-funk soundtrack. Ambling through the saga, Gibson rubs lots of designer grime into his clean-cut screen image. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

> THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U) Director: Igor Kovalvov

Voices: E G Daily, Christine Cavanaugh Given the small-screen success of the 'rats, a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Neatly timed to hit the Easter hols, The Rugrats Movie shifts its horizons beyond the usual suburban homes and gardens. Here, the bairns find themselves adrift in a deep, dark forest, bonding with monkeys and tangling with a slavering wolf. Kids, no doubt, will eat this up.

Adults should simply grin and bear it. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

This enjoyable, multi-Oscar

in an Oscar-winning performance.

winning film (right) suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Juliet.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Troilus and Cressida (Olivier, NT, London)

This play and this theatre are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep of Trevor Numi's production. To 19 May

Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London) The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play (right) about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer - man and symbol - in all his complex contradictoriness. Booking to 5 Jun

Trust (Royal Court Upstairs at the Ambassadors, London) It's not Protestants vs Catholics, but Profestants at violent odds with one another in Gary Mitchell's timely and involving Ulster thriller. To 3 Apr.

(Swan Theatre, Stratford) Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

The Late Middle Classes (Palace Theatre, Watford)

The fruitful collaboration between Simon Gray and Harold Pinter continues with the latter's production of Gray's dark comedy, set in Fifties England. To 10 Apr

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery) Big retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master 1. The build-up is slow and the end is sorry, but the brief "drip" period deserves every superlative. To 6 Jun

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery)

The modern object-world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range - notably those fat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the most intense portraiture ever (right). Exquisite mélanges of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky

(Dean Gattery, Edinburgh) Photographs 1994-98; huge, panoramic. high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally-manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer, To Ito May

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)

The short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthete and illustrator, with his masterful blacks and whites and his uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr

EDMONTON

TOM LUSBOCK

CINEMA

(0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Enemy of the State 1.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm π (Pi) 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm,

(0171-287 4322) © Piccadilly Circus Loved 6.25pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Your Friends and Neighbors 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 8.45pm

5.45pm, 8.40pm E 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE (0870-902 0403) • Lelcester Square/Piccadilly. Circus The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.10pm, 3.05pm, 5pm, 7.05pm, 9pm Affliction 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm Hideous Kinky 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm La Vie Revee des Anges (The Dream Life of Angels) 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm,

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham

Payback 6.35pm, 1.45pm, 9.10pm 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm, Waking Ned 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm BARBICAN SCREEN

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) ♦ Sloane Square An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

CURZON SOHO

5pm, 7,45pm Gods and Monsters 2,45pm, 7,15pm, 9,30pm Seul Contre Tous (I Stand Alone) 1,45pm, 3,45pm, 5.45pm, 9.45pm EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

EMPIRE LECESTER SOUARCE (0990-888990) — Leicester Square Life is Beaudiful (La Vita è Bella) 12noon, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm GATE NOTTING HILL

do Brasil) 6pm

ODEON CAMPEN TOWN ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) & Camden Town American History X 12,10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Payback 11.45am, 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm Pleasantville 12.20pm The Thin Red Line 3.20pm, 7.45pm This Year's Love 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm Waking Ned 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 9m

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) & Piccadilly Circus This Year's Love 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

6,45pm, 9pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

ODEON LEKESTER SQUARE

ODEON MARBLE ARCH ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007)

Marble Arch
Mighty Joe 12.50pm, 3.20pm
5.55pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.45pm
6.30pm, 9.10pm The Rugrats
Movie 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.25pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in
Love 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm,
9.05pm The Thin Red Line
8.20pm Waking Ned 1.05pm,
3.25pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm

ODEON MEZZANINE ODEON MEZZANINE
(08705-050007) & Leic Sq A Bug's
Life 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm,
8.45pm Elizabeth 12.35pm,
3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Life is
Beautiful (La Vita è Bella)
12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking
Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm,
8.45pm Stepmom 12.30pm,
3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) © Swiss Cottage American History X 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Arlington Road 3.05pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm A Bug's Life 1.05pm Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Pleasantville 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Wakking Ned 12.20pm, 2.30pm, Waking Ned 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

ODEON WEST END PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-494 4153) & Picc Circ Blue Planet 12.35pm Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm L5 - The First City in Space (3-D) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Res: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm, 10.10pm

PLAZA (0990-888990) & Picc Circ Arlington Road 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm. 8.45pm Pleasantville 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm

(0171-837 8402) & Russell (01/1-63/ 8402) & Russell Square Aprile 4.40pm, 9pm An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) 1.35pm, 5.5pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Central 5 tation (Central do Brasil) 1.20pm, 6.40pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) 8R/O Brixton (0171-733 2229) 8R/Ø Brixton American History X 2pm, 4.30pm. 7.05pm, 9.30pm Le Bossu 1.40pm A Bug's Life 11.30am Central 5tation (Central do Brasil) 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm Life is Beaudiful (La Vita è Bella) 1.45pm, 6.45pm Pleassantville 9.20pm Seul Contre Yous (I Stand Alone) 4pm, 6pm Shakespeare in Love 4.15pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line Bpm Waking Ned 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) → Baker St Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Walding Ned 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) Angel/ Highbury & Islington Waking Ned 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) ⊕ Belsize Park Gods and Monsters 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm UCI WHITELEYS

UCI WHITELEYS
(0990-888990)

Bayswater
American History X 1pm, 4pm,
6.40pm, 9.20pm Arlington Road
3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm
A Bug's Life 1.15pm Life is
Beautiful (La Vita è Bella)
12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Mighty Joe 1.45pm, 4.40pm,
7.10pm Payback 11.45am, 2pm,
4.30pm, 7pm, 9.40pm The
Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 3.40pm,
6.30pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare in
Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm,
9.05pm The Thin Red Line
8.40pm Waking Ned 12noon,
2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.45pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) ← 5loane 5quare American History X 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 11.40am, 1.50pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 4pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm Madeline 12.30pm The Rugrass Movie 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Waking Ned 12.45pm, 2.50pm, 4.55pm, 8.30pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) + South Kensington Arlington Road 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Payback 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Shalkespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 1.20pm, 5pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@II 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) Piccadilly Circus American History X 2.20pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Life 2.20pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.50pm Pleasantville 2pm, 4.50pm, 8pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) & Piccadilly Circus Arlington Road 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Blast 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Blast from the Past 12.15pm. 3pm, 5.50pm A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.10pm A Night at the Roxbury 4.55pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Patch Adams 8.40pm Payback 12noon, 2.55pm, 5.55pm, 8.55pm The Rugrats Movie 11.40am, 1.35pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm You've Got M@lt 12.05pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.45pm 5.35pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) & Leic Square American History X 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Arlington Road 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm A Bug's Life 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm The Opposite of Sex 12.10pm, 2.40pm, 5.05pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm Payback 11.30am, 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5pm, 7pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Pleasantville 12noon, 3pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm Urban Legend 7.10pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@il 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. WARNER VILLAGE WEST END

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON PARK
ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-896 0066) Park Royal
American History X 1pm, 3.30pm,
6.20pm, 9.10pm Antz 11.10am
Arlington Road 11.20am, 2pm,
4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Blast
from the Past 7pm A Bug's Life
12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm Jack
Prost 11.30am Madeline 11am
Mighty Joe 12.10pm, 3pm,
5.50pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams
4.20pm, 10pm Payback 1.20pm,
4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm The
Prince of Egypt 12.30pm The Rugrats Movile 10.50am, 12.50pm,
2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm,
3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Tital Red
Line 9.20pm Walding Ned 2.40pm,
5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm You've
Got M@ll 1.40pm, 7pm

BARNET
ODEON (08705-050007) & High
Barnel Arlington Road 3.40pm.
8.45pm A Bug's Life 12.45pm
Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Payback 1.30pm, 3.30pm,
7pm, 9pm The Rugrats Movie
12noon, 2pm, 3.45pm, 5.30pm,
7.30pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in
Love 1.20pm, 6.25pm Waking Ned
2.45pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9pm BARNET

BECKENHAM ABC (0870-902 0412) BR: Beck-

ABC (0870-902 0412) BR: Beck-enham Junction A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.25pm, 5.30pm Madeline 3.45pm Payback 1.10pm, 6pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm Shake-speare in Love 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.40pm

CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bexleyheath Arlington Road 7.25pm, 9.50pm Blast from the Past 5.10pm, 9.50pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1pm, 3.05pm, 5.15pm Dead Man's Curve 2.30pm, 9.45pm Jack Frost 11am Madeline 12.10pm, 2.10pm Mighty Joe 11.30am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Patch Adams 12noon, 4.50pm, 7.20pm Payback 1.15pm, 3.25pm, 5.35pm, 6.50pm, 7.50pm, FELTHAM 10pm, The Rugrats Movie 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.05pm, 2.10pm, 3pm, 4.10pm, 5pm, 7pm Shakespeare in Love 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 9pm Waking Ned 12.05pm, 2.05pm, 4.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.05pm, 10.05pm You've

Got M@il 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 7.30pm BROMLEY ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.05pm Made-Bug's Life 12noon, 2.05pm Made-line 12noon Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Payback 2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 12.20pm, 2.35pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Waking Ned 4.25pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm

ABC (0181-461 1278) 8R: Catford. A Bug's Life 12.30pm Payback 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Ru-grats Movie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm Urban Legend 8.40pm

CROYDON CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: West/East Croydon Hideous Kinky 3.45pm Shakespeare in Love 6pm, 8.30pm

FAIRFIELD HALLS (0181-688 9291) BR: East Croydon Saving Private Ryan 7.45pm The Siege 7.45pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) 8R: West

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) SR: West Croydon. Aarzoo 8pm Mighty Joe 5.30pm A Night at the Roxbury 8.10pm The Rugrats Movie 5.40pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon Arlington Road 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm Blast from the Past 6.10pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 3.50pm Mighty Joe 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Patch Adams 4pm, 9.40pm Payback 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.30pm, 4.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm

12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm The Thin Red Line 8.25pm Waking Ned 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@II DAGENHAM

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 WARNER WILLAGE (0181-592 2020) 9 Dagenham Heathway American History X 1.55pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Antz 12 midnight Arlington Road 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Blast from the Past 6pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1.20pm, 3.50pm Jack Frost 11.55am Madeline 10.40am Mighty Joe 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Patch Adams 4.40pm, 9.50pm Payback 11.20am, 9.50pm Payback 11.20am. 4.40pm, 9.50pm Payback 11.20am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 11.50pm The Rugrats Movie 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Thin Red Line 8.40pm

VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-907 0719) © Ealing Broadway Arlington Road 8.30pm Mighty Joe 2.15pm. 5pm Payback 2.05pm. 4.30pm. 6.50pm. 9.10pm The Rugrats Movie 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.15pm Shakespeare In Love 8.10pm

LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) Tottenham Hale American History X 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.45pm, 9.40pm Arlington Road 12.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.50pm Beloved 9pm Blast from the Past 4.40pm, 7.40pm A Bug's the Past 4.40pm, 7.40pm A Bug's Life 11am, 12noon, 1.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm Jack Frost 10.30am Life is Beaudful (La Vita è Belia) 5.40pm, 8.30pm Madeline 11.15am, 1.20pm, 3.30pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Patch Adams 12.50pm, 10.10pm Payback 11am, 12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, 12.50pm, 10.10pm Payback 11am, 1.25pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats Movie 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.45pm, 1.45pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.15pm, 6.10pm, 7.30pm, 8.20pm 5hakespeare In Love 3.05pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 4,30pm, 8.10pm Waking Ned 11.45am, 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm You've Got Mi@il 8.50pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) O Elephani & Castle Arlington Road 6pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life

1.30pm, 3.30pm Madeline 2pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Payback 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

FELTHAM
CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham Aa Ab Laut
Chalen 9.10pm Aarzoo 11.30am,
3pm, 6.20pm, 9.45pm American
History X 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
Blast from the Past 11.30am, 2pm,
4.20pm, 6.50pm A Bug's Life
11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.50pm,
2.50pm, 4pm, 5pm International
Khiladi 12.20pm, 3.40pm, 7pm,
9.30pm Jack Frost 11.40am Madeime 11.40am, 1.40pm Mighty Joe
11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm,
9.10pm An Night at the Roxbury
10pm Patch Adams 11.40am, 2pm,
4.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Payback
2pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 7.50pm,
9.20pm, 10pm Pleasantville
11.10am, 1.40pm The Rugrats
Movie 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm,
3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7.40pm Movie 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7.40pm 5hakespeare in Love 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 6.10pm, 9.30pm Waking Ned 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm You've Got M@II 12noon, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) & East Finchley Antz 10.40am Arlington Road 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Blast from the Past 6.10pm A Bug's Life from the Past 6.10pm A Bug's Life 10.30am, 12.50pm, 3.20pm Jack Frost 10.30am Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 9.40pm Madelline 11.20am Mighty Joe 10.30am, 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 7pm Parch Adams 3.30pm, 9.20pm Payback 2.10pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.35am The Rugrats Movie 11am, 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm 5hakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 4pm, speare in Love 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 8.30pm Waking Ned 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm You've Got M@II 12.40pm, 6.20pm

FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3059) © Finchley Road Artington Road 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 3.55pm Mighty Joe 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Patch Adams 10.15pm Payback 2pm, 4.30pm, 70pm, 9.30pm, Pleaseantyllie 10.15pm Payback 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm. 9.30pm Pleasantville 12.30pm. 6.05pm The Rugrats Movie 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 8.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 6.05pm, 9.25pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.55pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@ll 3.20pm, 8.50pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 4134) & Golders Green Payback 6.10pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 2pm, 4pm

GREENWICH GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR Greenwich Arlington Road 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mighty Joe 4pm, 6.15pm Payback 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in Love 8.30pm

HAMMERSMITH HAMMERSMITH
VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) & Hammersmith A Bug's Life 12.40pm
Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm
Payback 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The
Rugrats Movie 11.20am, 1.30pm,
3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8pm Shakespeare
in Love 8.40pm Waking Ned
1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

per te

PLEASANTVILLE (12)

PATCH ADAMS (12)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15) Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning Second World War drama, starring Tom Hanks. West End: Plaza. Local: Croydon Fairfield Halls

Nanni Moretti's Aprile freewheels through three SEUL CONTRE TOUS (18)

GENERAL RELEASE

years in Italian politics. Impossible to pigeonhole, A sociopathic butcher (Phillipe Nahon) is pushed with its realist absurdist rhythms, it bows out with over the edge when he finds out that someone has abused his daughter. Less straight cinema than a kind of whiplashing fairground ride, Seul Contre Nous is an undeniably attention-grabbing debut for the multi-talented director Gaspar Noé. West End: Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema

Mark Pellington's paranoia thriller sees Jeff about his "respectable" neighbour (Tim Robbins).

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local

Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Worner Village West End

THE THIN RED LINE (15) Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's director's chair is a fabulous, fever-struck war film. While a cast of familiar faces (John Travolta, Nick Nolte, George Clooney) vie for attention, all play a determined second fiddle to The Thin Red Line's

creeping narcotic mood. A road-movie of sorts, Central Station trails West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Station trails West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Recester Square, Odeon Marble Arch. Ritzu Cinema, UCI Whiteleus, her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt for Virgin Fulham Road. Repertory: Watermans

Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18) A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

URBAN LEGEND (18) A bland and inconsequential bloodbath: fresh-faced teens meeting their grisly end in a drama as cold

and schematic as a daytime talk show. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

VERY BAD THINGS (18) Peter Perg's debut serves up swaggering gross out comedy in a Loaded magazine style but it has nowhere to go save from shrill to shriller to shrillest. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Warner Village

WAKING NED (PG1

Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tully in rural Ireland has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cua a rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. The film has a zesty undertow of black comedy but is too air-brushed for its own good.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG) Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in a romance zapped

out of its rut by an Internet plot hook. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ABC PANTON STREET

ABC PICCADILLY

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) & Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Arlington Road 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 8.40om Elizabeth

Court Road Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.55pm,

(0171-638 8891)

Moorgate /Barbican An Autumn Tale (Contre d'Automne) 6.15pm, 8.40pm Waking Ned 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) & Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella) 3pm. 6.30pm, 8.50pm

(0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) O Leicester Square/Tottenham
Court Road An Autumn Tale
(Conte d'Automne) 2.15pm,
7pm, 9.15pm Festen
(The Celebration) 12.30pm,
5pm, 7.45pm Gods
and Monsters 2.65pm, 7.15pm

(0171-727 4043) © Notding Hill Gate Gods and Monsters 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) & Notting Hill Gate Arlington Road 3.15pm, 8.35pm Central Station (Central

ABC (0870-902 0413) + Belsize Park American History X 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Belia] 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2pm, 4pm, 6pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) Harrow-on-the-Hill Aarzoo 45pm International Khiladi 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE [0181-427 9009) O Harrow-on-tha-Hill American History X 1.10pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.20pm Antz 11am Arlington Road 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Blast from the Past 6pm A Bug's Life 11.50am, 1.15pm, 3.40pm Jack Frost 10.50am Madeline 10.50am ghty Joe 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Patch Adams 4pm, 9,40pm Payback 11.10am, 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9,30pm The Prince of Egypt 9.55am The Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pi 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 0.30pm, 1.30pm, Shakespeare In Love 12.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 11.40pm Waking Ned 1.20pm, 3,40pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@II 1.10pm, 6.40pm, 12.10am

HOLLOWAY

ODEON (08705-050007) & Archway Arlington Road 6.05pm. 40pm Beloved 7.45pm Blass from the Past 5.10pm A Bug's Life 2.05pm, 2pm, 4pm Made 12noon Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Payback 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, B.55pm The Rugrars Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm Shake speare in Love 6pm, 8.35pm Tha speare in Love 6pm, 8.35pm Tha Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm Waking Ned 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm You've Got M@I 12.20pm, 2.45pm

ODEON (08705-050007) & Gants Hill A Bug's Life 11.55pm, 1.55pm, 3.55pm Mighty Joe 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Patch Adams 5.55pm, 8.25pm Payback 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Tha Rugrats Movie 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.35pm

TRICYCLE CINEMA (0171-328 1000)
Kilburn Waking Ned 7pm, 9.15pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTION5 [0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.05pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm Payback 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.40pm, 3,50pm, 6pm Shakespeare In Love 8.05pm The Thin Red Line 7.20pm

MUSWELL ODEON (08705-050007) + Highgate A Bug's Life 12,30pm, 2.30pm Hilary and Jackie 8.30pm Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm Payback 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm The Thin Red Line 4.35pm, 7.50pm

PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Packham Rya American History X 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Arlington Road 3,55pm, 6,30pm, 8,55pm Beloved 8,30pm Mighty Joa 2.30pm, 5pm Payback 4.35pm. 6.50pm, 9.15pm The Rugrats Movle 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm Waking Ned 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm

PURIEV ABC [0870-902 0407) 8R: Purkey ABL (08/0-902 0407) SR: Puncy Arlington Road 5.30pm, 8.10pm A Bug's Life 1.25pm, 3.25pm Life is Beaudful (La Vita è Bella) 8.15pm Mighty Joe 2.45pm, 5.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm The Thin Part Life 7.10pm

ABC (0870-902 0401) @ Putney Bridge/BR: Putney. A Bug's Life 1pm. 3.15pm, 5.25pm Payback 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.15p 3.30pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare

Love 8.15pm The Thin Red Line RICHMOND ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Madeline 12noon Mighty Joe 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Payback 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Waking

Ned 1.30pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9.30pm ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007) 8R/O Richmond Artington Road 6.40pm, 9.15pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.30pm Tha Rugrats Movie 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm 5hakespeare in Love 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, Open The This Red Line 1.10pm 9nm The Thin Red Line 1.10nm. 40pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@ll

ROMFORD ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford. Arlington Road 8.20pm A Bug's Life 1.30pm Patch Adams 1.40pm Payback 3.35pm. 6pm. 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2.10pm, 3.50pm. 5.30pm The Thin Red Line 4.05pm.

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (0B705-050007) 8R: Romford Arlington Road 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm A Bug's Life 1pm, 3.05pm Madeline 12.45pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, B.35pm A Night at the Roxbury 12.45pm Patch Adams 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm Payback 12.50pm, 3.20pm, Payback 12.50pm. 3.20pm. 6.05pm. 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 12.05pm. 2.15pm. 4.20pm. 6.25pm. 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm. 3pm. 5.40pm. 8.15pm Waking Ned 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm You've Got M@II 5.20pm, 8.35pm

VIRGIN 10870-907 07171 BR: Cricklighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm Migny Joe 12.30pm, 5.13pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Payback 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm The Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm in Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Waking Ned 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm,

NEW PICTURE HOUSE (01B1-555 3366) BR/O Stratford Arlington Road 8.55pm A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.15pm Gods and Monsters 8.35pm Jack Frost 12.10pm Mighty Joe 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm Payback 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Tha Rugrats Movie 11.30am, 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 5pm, 6.50pm Waking Ned 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 9pm

ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Arlington Road 2.35pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm Patch Adams 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.35pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm. 5.35pm. 8.25pm

ton American History X 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm, Beloved 7.40pm A Bug's Life 11.50pm, 1.50pm. 12.50pm 3.50pm, 5.45pm Madeline 12.50pm, Mighby Joe 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Payback 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Waking Ned 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

SURREY QUAYS American History X 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Arlington Road 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm A Bug's Life 11.30am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Madeline 11.15am, 1.15pm Mighty Joe 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm 12.15pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Patch Adams 7.10pm, 9.40pm Payback 11am, 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm The Rugrats Movia 10.45am, 11.45am, 12.45pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.15pm, 6.20pm, 7.20pm, 8.20pm Shake-speare in Love 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 9.20pm Waking Ned 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton Arlington Road 6.45pm, 9.45pm A Bug's Life 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella] 9pm Madeline 1.15pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm Payback 11am, 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.30pm The Rugrats
Movie 11.30am, 1.45pm, 4pm,
6.15pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in
Love 6.30pm, 9.15pm Waking Ned
3.45pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

UXBRIDGE ODEON (08705-050007) + Uxbridge Arlington Road 6.10pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 11.50am, 2pm, 4.05pm Mighty Joe 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm Patch Adams 8.50pm The Prince of Egypt 11.10am

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) Waltham stow Central A Bug's Life 1.25pm, 3.30pm Payback 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm Shake-speare in Love 5.40pm, 8.10pm The Thin Red Line 7.20pm

THE 5CREEN (01932-252825) BR: Walton-on-Thames Life is Sea tiful jLa Vita è Belia) 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2.40pm, 4.35pm, 6.35pm Waking Ned 3pm. 5pm.

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 2pm Pay-back 4.15pm. 6.30pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movle 1.20pm, 3.30pm. 5.25pm. 7.10pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O
Wimbledon/ A Bug's Life 11.35am,
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm Jack
Frost 12noon Mighty Joe 11.35am,
1.45pm, 4pm, 6.15pm Payback
2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
Tha Rugrats Movie 12.15pm,
2.15cm, 4.15cm, 6.15cm, 9.30cm 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm 5hakespeare in Love 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm Waking Ned

2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm ABC (0181-989 3463) South
Woodford Arlington Road 8.10pm
A Bug's Life 1.40pm Payback
3.55pm. 6.10pm, 8.30pm The
Rugrats Movie 1.20pm. 3.20pm,
5.20pm Shakespeare in Love
2.40pm. 5.25pm The Thin Red 2.40pm, 5.25pm The Thin Red

Line 7.25pm **WOOD GREEN** NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) O Turnpike Lane Daag 5.30pm Laa Waris 8.45pm Aa Ab Laut

CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Wwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 5.30pm Madeline 3.30pm Mighty Joe 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

5W7 (0171-838 2144/2146) L'Amour en Fulta (NC) 6.30pm Domicile Conjugal (NC) 8.45pm ICA CINEMA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647) The Promise (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Modulations INC) 6.30pm, 8.45pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square. N1 (0171-684 0201) Rio at Luc: Time of the Gypsies [15) 6.30pm + Gadjo Dilo 9pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) Snake Eyes [15] 2.30pm Addendum (NC) The Bitter Tea of Ge al Yen: Anything Goes (NC) 6.30pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, NZ (0181-444 6789) A Bug's Life (U) 11.10am An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) (U) 1.10pm 6.20pm. 8.50pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 3.40pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place NC2 (0171-437 81B1) U-Turn (18) 1.30pm The Full Monty (15) 4.20pm Fear and Loathing in Las as (18) 6.30pm My Name is Joe

THE PULLMAN EVERYMAN Holly Bush Vala. NW3 (0171-606 2345) An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Automne) (U) 3.50pm, 6.20pm, RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA

Crisp Road, W5 (0171-420 0100) Krzysztof Kieslowski: I'm So-So (NC) 7.15pm + The Double Life of

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middx (0181-568 1176) The Appla (Sib) (PG) Spm Waking Ned (PG) 7pm Central Sta-tion (Central do Brasil) (15) 9pm DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503)

Fester [15) 1.15pm. 5.30pm Nla-gara Niagara [15] 3.30pm The Right Stuff (15) 7.30pm

CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Elizabeth (15) 12noon, 7.10pm
American History X [18) 2.30pm,
9.30pm Darling [NC] 5pm

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) La Vita è Bella [PG) 2.30pm, 8pm Via Satellite [NC)

PSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Madeline (U) 2.30pm Hilary and Jackle [15) 6pm. 8.30pm Elizabeth (15) 7.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) A Bug's Life (U) 2 30pm Shakespeare in Love [15] 5.30pm. 8.15pm

THEATRE WEST END

day, times and prices for the week, running times include intervals.

— Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

 AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 [0171-494 5372) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7,30pm, [4] 2,30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

O ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage version of the Marx Brothers classic. Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4](7) 3pm, £9.50-£30.

 ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb.
 Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wynedy about art and menosing. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111)

• Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7](1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50.90 mkrs.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Fam ily musical based on Disney's cartoon fairy tale. Dominion Totterham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-E35. 150 mins. • BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-

sell's long-running musical melodra-ma. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq/lott Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm. [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

● BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing the brief life of Buddy Holly. 5trand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ◆ Covent Garder/Oraring X. Tue-Thur 8pm, Fr15.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, half price Fri mats. 160 mins. DCATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Ellot's poems. New London Parker Street, WCZ (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) & Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,

3][7] 3pm, £10,50-£35, 165 mins, I CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 [0171-344 0055) — Charing X. Mon-Sat Bpm, (4)[7] 3pm, £16-£36 [Inc booking fee). 130 mins.

• THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shalespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays Criterion Piccadilly Orcus, W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm. (5] 3pm. (7) 5pm. (1(4pm. £10-£25, 120 mins,

I COPENHAGEN New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444) Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5((7) 2.30pm, £10-£30. 145 mlns.

O DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little stars in this comedy about the sexes. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 6pm & 8.45pm, £5-£25, concs available.

 DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofeld talks to the animals, London Apol-Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) & Hammersmith. Tue-5at 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 28 Aug, £12.50-£32,50. 150 mins.

• THE GIN GAME Frith Banbury directs Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this drama which centres around a lengthy game of Gin Rummy, Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) BR/& Charing X/Embankment, Tonight 7pm, ends 5 Jun, £9.50-£27.50.

O GOOD Charles Dance in CP Taylor's bumorous drama. Donmai Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) → Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)(7) 3pm, ends 22 May, £14-£22, concs available.

of the bit film. With Darren Day Cambridge Eartham Street, WC 2 |0171-494 5080) ◆ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4)[7] 3pm, £10-£32.50. 150 mlms. • GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE Michael Pennington and William Hoyland in Moises Kaufman's re-

truction of the downfall of the ce ebrated playwright. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) & Picc Orc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. (4)]7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£29.50.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charling Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 S085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4) 2.30pm, (7) 5pm, £12-£29.50, 110 mins.

 MACBETH Starring Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexize: Queen's Shaftes-bury Avanue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) & Plcc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun, £10.50-£28.50, 140 mins.

 MAMMA MIA! New musical about a mother's reflections on her daughter's impending wedding day. Prince Edward Old Compton Street. W1 (0171-447 5400) & Leic Sq/fort Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5)[7]
 30m £15.£35 3pm. £15-£35.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Stella Gonet star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning homa for their mother's fimeral. Vaudeville Strand, WCZ (0171-836 9987) BR/O Charles V Mon-Sat 800, (5)(7) 3 cm 52. ing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (5)[7] 3pm, £8-£27.50. 120 mins.

) LES MISERABLES Musical tion of Victor Hugo's masterpiece, Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5)(7(2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

Now Booking

live and dangerous.

FOLLOWING HIS sterling fund-raising

efforts for Comic Relief, Lenny Henry

(below) is going on tour. Book now for a

chance to see the feisty Brummie stand-up,

Tour Information (0891-455 480) 29 Apr to 6 Jun

) MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 [0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7,45pm. (4)[7(3pm, £8.50-£35.

• THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodamnit. St Martin's West Street. WC2 [0171-836 1443] ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Set 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, £10-£24.50. 135 mlns.

OKLAHOMA! Maureen Limman stars in Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical Lyceum Wellington Street, WCZ [0870-606 3446] ⊕ Charing X/Embankment_ Mon-Sat 7.30p [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June, £10-£35. 180 mlns.

O THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/ct 344 4444) @ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 141171 3cm, \$10-635, 150 miles (4)]7] 3pm, £10-£35. 150 mins.

THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason star in Neil Simon's comedy. Theatre Royal, Haymark Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [4][7] 3pm, £10-£32.50.

 RENT New York-set musical inspired by La Boheme, Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221) & Holbory/fort Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE

OCTIES OF Guiding Star Jonathan Harvey's new play gives a tender account of the life of Hillsborough disaster survivor. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 5 Apr. 150 mins. @1VTTFITON: The Fovest Ostrovsko's

social satire stars Frances de la Tour. In rep, tonight 7.30pm, ends 1 May Cottesioe: £12-£18. Lyttelton: £8-£27. Day seats from 10am, South Bank, S£1 (0171-452 3000) BR/O Waterloo. ROYAL GHARESPEARE COMPANY O THE BARBICAN: The Lion, The

Witch and The Wardrobe Adrian No-

ble directs the CS Lewis Namia clas

sics for children. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 8 May. ● THE PTE Roberto Zucco Drama inspired by a wanted poster written by Koltes. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 1 May, Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The

Pic £11-£18.50, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) BR/+ Barbican. D SACRED HEART Two friends struggle to come to terms with their pests. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Lek Sq. Mon-Sat

7pm, ends 24 Apr, £10, concs £5. SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIL 1970s musical featuring songs by the Bee Gees. London Palladium Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) ◆ Ox-ford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

• SHOCKHEADED PETER Junk opera, featuring the Tiger Lillies. Lyrk Hammersmith King Street, W6 0 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith, Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 10 Apr, £5-£18.

O SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW Slava Polounine returns to Loodoo. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 [0171-369 1734) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7,30pm. [5][7] 2,30pm. • STARLIGHT EXPRESS Hi-tech roller-musical, Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-415 6070)

BR/O Victoria, Mon-5at 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £12.50-£30. 150 mins. ● TRUST Gary Mitchell's explosive drama. Royal Court Upstales (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WCZ (0171-565 5000) ● Lek Sq. Tonight

9pm, ends 3 Apr. £10, concs £5. THE WER Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of (0171-565 5000) → Leic Sc/Charling X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£2S. 90 mlns.

I WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical Prince of Wates Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) & Le-[5][7] 3pm, £18.50-£35. 160 mins.

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical Aid-wyth Aldwyth, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 836 2428) & Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7) 3pm, £10-£32.50. 120 mlns.

O THE WOMAN IN BLACK SUBBI Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) & Covent Garder/Holborn, Mon-Sat 8pm, (3) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

tree's When Pigs Ply Gay musical comedy poking fun at American culture. Tue-Fri Bpm, Sat 6pm & B.30pm, Sun 6pm, ends 3 Apr. £20-£25 concs £15. Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334/cc741

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE A Small Drop of ink: Snake New work set on and around the Finchley Road. 31 Mar & 1 Apr, 7pm & 9pm. £9-£12, concs available. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) ◆ Swiss Coccage. KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON GOD

Jason Orange stars in this blistering attack on art and culture. Tue-Sun 8pm, mats Sat & 5un 3.30pm, ends 18 Apr. £12-£14, cones £9. Up-per 5treet, N1 (0171-226 1916)

BOX OFFICE

*THE INFORMATION ON 'Good' at the Donmar Warehouse

What is it? CP Taylor's play with music chronicles a German professor's gradual absorption by Nazisin. The deceptively humorous drama focuses on his naive blindness to the implications of his actions despite their eventual contribution to the horrific genocide.

Who's In It? Charles Dance (right), famed for The level in the Crown but more. recently seen in ITV's Rebecca and the controversial Hilary and Jackie: plays Halder, the literature professor unwittingly

surfing the waves of -Nazi propaganda -

who couples his job in Anschwitz with his friendship with Maurice, a Jewish psychoanalyst played by Ian Gelder. Starlet of the moment Emilia Fox (right) is the nubile student with whom he has an affair, while his longsuffering wife (played by Jessica Torner) falls apart at the seams.

What They Say About It A strong cast in a dark, crisp and spare production" Robert Builer. Independent on Sunday. "It bubbles with restless energy, brims with wry, - but pointed observation" = Benedict Nightingale, Times. A sincere attempt to grapple with some of the darkest moral enigmas of our time" John Gross,

Sunday Telegraph. . .



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Themes of illusion, potency and racism feed the thrust of a gripping, and still frightening, contemporary play" Michael Coveney, Daily Mail

Where You Can See It The Donmar Warehouse, Eartham St. London WC2 (0171-369-1732)

BEATRICE HODGKIN

LYRIC STUDIO 400 lokes with the Devil Tragi-comedy about one man's failed attempt to make an epic film about Mexico. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 4pm, ends 17 Apr. £9, concs £5, Mon - all seats £5. King 5treet, W6 (0181-741 2311) & Hammersmith.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Blood Kno Athol Fugard's lucid drama exa the issues in anartheid and racism

TRICYCLE THEATRE Up Agains The Wall New black musical com-plete with buge afros. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 4.15pm, ends 17 Apr. £8-£13.50. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

BARNSTAPLE OUEEN'S THEATRE Bing-Bong Keith Waterhouse's comedy about pair of television sitcom scriptwriters. Starring Dennis Waterman and Patrick Mower. Mon, Tue, Thur Sat. 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £11-£14.50. Boutport Street (01271-324242)

THEATRE ROYAL .The Dispute Marivaux's quasi-scientific drama directed by Neil Bartlett. Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Thur 4pm, ends 3 Apr. £7.50-£14.50, concs available, Bond Street [01273-328488)

THEATRE ROYAL The Price Com pelling drama about two estranged brothers, each of whom carries a burning truth. Mon-Wed 7.30p Thur-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 10 Apr. £3-£19, concs available. King 5treet (0117-987 7877)

ORCHARD THEATRE On the Piste John Godber's raunchy comedy gives us a revealing insight hoto aking holidays. Contains mudity. Tonight 7.45pm. £9-£11, OAPs £7.50-£9.50. Homa Gardens [01322-220000]

HARLOW PLAYHOUSE Camberville Ghost Musical version of Oscar Wilde's satirical ghost story. Tonight 7.30pm, E7-E8, concs £6-E7. The High (01279-431945)

WOLSEY THEATRE The Glass

Menagerie Tennessee Williams' por-trait of a faded Southern belle. Tue-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £5-£14, conc able. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

WATERMILL THEATRE Danger-ous Corner JB Priestley's thriller about a suspicious suicide. Mon-Sat Bagnor (01635-46044)

KEY THEATRE Loot Michael Elohick and Letitia Dean star in Joe Or-too's black comedy. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mats Thur 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, ends 3 Apr. £9-£11.50, cones avaliable. Embank-POOLE ARTS CENTRE Hushalove

Mountain Jonathan Harvey's new play set in Heaven and or Earth. Tue-Sat 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £7.50-£11.50. Kingland Road (01202-685222) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE A Midsummer Night's Dream Star-ring Josette Simon and Nicholas

Jones. Tonight 7,30pm, ends 9 Oct. £5-£39. Waterside (01789-295623) SWAN THEATRE Volpone Malcolm Storry plays the avaricious bero. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 9 Oct. £5-£36. Weterside (01789-295623)

PALACE THEATRE The Late Mid dle Classes Harold Pinter directs Simon Gray's study of family conflict Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mat today 2.30pm, ands 10 Apr. £4-£15.75, concs available. Clarendon Road (01923-225671)

EXHIBITIONS CLASSICAL

AMERICAN MUSEUM IN BRITAIN Beautiful Beasts: Animals in Amer-Ican Art Nineteenth-century scripture, textiles, prints and ceramics.
Tue-Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 11 Nox £5,
concs £4.50, child £3 (incl to museum & arounds), exhibition & seum & grounds), exhibition & grounds only £2.50, child £2. Claverton Manor (01225-460503)

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Rembrandt and the Passion The museum's outstanding collection of prints. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun, free.

HAYWARD GALLERY Patrick Cavifield More than 50 colourful paintings by the leading British paintings by the leading British artist. Mon, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, ends 11 Apr. £6, concs £4. family £12. Belvedere Road .5E1 (0171-960 4242) BR/⊕ Waterloo.

NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by ingres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 18th-century French artist. Mon. Tue; Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. E6, concs £4, Wed £4 7pm-10pm. Trafalgar Square WC2 (0171-747 2885) & Leicester Square.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

TATE GALLERY Jackson Pollock Abstract Expressionist work. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 6 Jun. £7.50, concs £5, family £19 (First-call 0870-842 2233 + £1.60 bkg fee), Millbank SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊕ Pimlico.

NORWICH NORWICH ARTS CENTRE India 50 - Working People: Sebastiao Salgado Internationally acclaimed photographer portrays of Indian life. Mon-Fri 10am-Spm, Sat 11am-4pm, ends 8 Apr, free. Reeves Yard, St Benedict's St (01603-660352)

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART Some where Else: Willte Doherty New video installation. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm (Thur to 9pm), ends 4 Apr. £2.50 (free Wed am & Thur pm), concs £1.50, child free, Pembroke Street (01865-722733)

ST IVES
STATE GALLERY Quolt
Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble
sculpture. Mon-Sat 11am-7pm.
Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50,
concs £2. (01736-796226)

EVENTS

SOUNDS OF THE FOREST II Gala concert in ald of the British Heart Foundation. Wride Theatre South Hill Park (01344-484123) Tonight 7.30pm. £7, concs £5.

LEATHERHEAD MAMMAL MONTH - OTTERS AND WATER VOLES Illustrated talks and activities. Nover Wood Edu-cational Nature Reserve Mill Way (01372-379509). Tonight 7.30pm-9pm. £3, child £2.50.

MOSCOW STATE CIRCUS Interna dra Palace Park Wood Green N22 Palace, Mon-Fri 5pm & 8pm, Sat. Sun, Bank Holldays, 2pm & 5pm, ends 11 Apr. £8-£20, child £6-£15.

Strippers of both sexes compete, raising funds for the Leydig Trust. The Improv Tott Ct Rd W1 (0171-3B7 2414) & Warren St. Tonig 7pm-12midnight. £10, concs £6. PULBOROUGH POND DIPPING Discover what's un-der the surface of the water, children

EROTIC OSCARS - SEMI-FINALS

LITERATURE

Wiggonholt (01798-B75B51)

Today 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, £4, child £1.50, mems free.

HEPWORTH AND NICHOLSON
Jonathan Blackwood examines the artistic comie. Tate Gallery Milibank SW1 (0171-887 8765) + Pimlico.

CRACK GRAND LYING CONTEST... Storviellers from all over the country compete. The New Crick Crack Club, The Spitz Venue Spitalfields Markat EC1 (0171-392 9032) Tonight 8pm, £6, concs £4.50.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD MORTIMER'S MISCELLANY An evening of with Sir John Mortimer. Leisure Centre High Pavement (01623-457600) Tonight 7.30pm. £6.50. cones £5.50.

to 22 May.

CORN EXCHANGE Ensemble Bash The percussion ensemble in concert. Tonight 7. T5pm. £8. concs £6. Wheeler Street (01223-357851)

ST DAVID'S HALL Mozart Festiva Orchestra and Chorus/Moulds Handel's Messich performed by can-dlelight. Tonight 7.30pm. £12-£21. The Hayes [01222-878444)

ST JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE Orchestra and Choir of the Age of Enlightenment/Leonhardt JS Bach's St. John Passion. Tonight 7.30pm. £8-£20, 5mlth Square, SW1 [0171-222 1061) & West-

OUEEN ELIZABETH HALL New London Consort/Pickett Music for Holy Week. Tonight 7.45pm. £8-£20. South Bank Centre, SE1 [0171-960 4242] BR/& Waterloo.

POOLE ARTS CENTRE Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra/Berglund Topett's Concerto for Double String Orchestra. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£24. Ringland Rd [01202-685222]

OPERA

LONDON LONDON COLISEUM Orpheus and Eurydice ENO revival of Gluck's ppera. Tonight 8pm. £5-£55. St. Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-632 8300) O Leicester Square.

SADLER'S WELLS Hansel and Grebel Humperdinck's opera in a production by Welsh National Opera. 31 Mar & 1 Apr, 7.30pm. £7.50-£60,

DANCE.

CHELTENHAM EVERYMAN THEATRE English
National Ballet: Tour de Force
Extracts from five ballets. Today
2pm & 7.45pm. £6.50-£18.50.
Regent Street [01242-572573]

CHICHESTER 5tomp Witty rhythmic symphony. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £10-£22.50, concs avallable. Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

WESTCI IFFLONISEA CLIFFS PAVILION St Petersburg Bailet Theatre: The Nutcracke Levish production of Tchaikovsky fairytale. Today 2,30pm & 7.45pm. £9-£27. Station Rd (01702-351135)

COMEDY

GUILDFORD FASCINATING AIDA: BAREFACED CHIC AT YVONNE ARNAUD THE-ATRE Infamous cabaret trio. Mon-ATRE Infamous cabaret trio. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, ends 1 Apr. from £13.50. Millibrook (01483-440000)

HARRY HILL AT HEN AND CHICK-EN5 The Channel Four star's sur-real humour 31 Mar & 1 Apr, 8.30pm, E5. St Paul's Road, N1 (0171-704 2001) O Highbury & Islington

LENNY BEIGE AT THE REGENCY ROOMS, NEW LONDON THEATRE Glitzy showbiz crooner. Tonight 9pm. £15. Parker Street, WC2 (0171-419

THE COMEDY STOKE FERMING
Jim Sweeney, Richard Vranch, Josie
Lawrence, Andy Smart, Lee Simpson
and Nell Mullarkey. Tonight Spm.
£11. NUS £7. Oxendon Street NORWICH RICHARD MORTON AND JUNIOR SIMPSON AT NORWICH ARTS CENTRE Genial musical funnyman and the star of The Real McCoy.

THE COMEDY STORE Featuring

Tonight 8.30pm. £8. St Benedict Street (01603-660352) SWINDON BOB DOWNE - MILLION SELLERS AT WYVERN THEATRE High camp and high kicks galore. Tonight 8pm £12. Theatre 5q (01793-5244B1)

CLUBS

BATH BOOGLE NIGHTS AT BABYLON With DJs Diggler and Finky Moth-er. Tonight 9pm-late. £4. Kingston Road (01225-400404)

CARDIFF WEDNESDAYS AT CLWB IFOR BACH Jazz, funk, breakbeat, indie and retro. Tonight 9pm-late, £2.50. £2 before 11pm. Womanby 5treet (01222-232199)

THE DOUBLE SIX CLUB AT THE OFFICE AT THE OFFICE Seven domestic games and easy lister events. Tonight 6pm-2am, £5. Rati bone Place, W1 (0171-636 159B) Tottenham Court Road.

MUSIC

ERROL BROWN Former-Bot Chocolate vocalist on his 'Still Sexy' tour. The Anvil Churchill Way (01256-844244). Tonight 8pm phone for prices.

LEKESTER SUZI QUATRO, ALVIN STARDUST, THE RUBETTES Nostagic triple-decker of 1970s favourites (0116-233 3111), Tonight 7.30pm,

LONDON JACK JONES Mellow easy-listening superstar behind the definitive version of Bacharach's Wives & Lovers, Barbican Hall Barbican Centre EC2 (0171-638 8891) Moorgate/Barbican, Tonight 8pm.

phone for prices.

DAVID SOUL AND ANTONIO FARGAS Starsky and Hutch stars perform in a funkily bizarre live music experience. The Fridge Town (Hall Parade, Brixton Hill SW2 [0171-326 5100) BR/O Brixton. Tonight 8pm, £12-£18, concs £10,

BELLATRIX Icelandic avant-garde

experimentalists go pop. The Garage Highbury Corner N5[0171-607 1818/cc 0171-344 0044) BR/O Highbury & Islington, Tonight Bpm. £6. TUCK & PATTI Funky acoustic jazz duo, Jazz Café Parkway NW1 (0171-

BACKYARD BABIES, FAMOUS MONSTERS, FUNGUS Scandinavian glam-metal from the flamboyant adliners. LA2 Charing Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) @ Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 8pm, £8. JOHN OTWAY, ATTILA THE

STOCKBROKER Cult pub-rocker

joined by the veteran ranting poet.

The Weavers Arms Newington Green Road N1 4 [0171-226 6911] BR/ Highbury & Islington, Tonight 8.30pm, ES. MEAT LOAF Mr Loaf performs classic tracks from a new Greatest Hits album, Wembley Arena Empire

Way, Wembley Middx (0181-902

BIS Indic-kids grown bitter and disillusioned tour the new album, 5ocial Dancing, Wedgewood Rooms Albert Road, Southsea (01705-863911) Tonight 8pm, £6.

DRUGSTORE, THE PARADISE MOTEL, LAPLAND Isabel Mootelro's iodie trio headline.

1116) Tonight 8pm, £6.

WORCESTER

Dr Hook singer runs through tha 1970s favourites, Huntingdon Hall Crowngate (01905-611427) Tonight 8pm, £12, concs £10. MUSIC

DENNIS LOCORRIERE The smooth

HUW WARREN BAND Jazz-folk suite antitled A Barral Organ For From Home. Arnolfini Narrow Ouzy [0117-929 9191). Tonight Bpm. £8, concs £6.

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

Showcasing vocalists Fiona Duncan, Freddie King and Cathie Rae. 606 Club Lots Road SW10 (0171-352 5953) & Fulham Broadway/Earl's Court. Tonight 9.30pm £4.95. OUINTET Guitar and sax-lad

THE SCOTTISH CONNECTION

modern jazz. Barbican Cantre FreeStage 5ilk Street £C2 (0171-63B 8891) & Barbican/Moorgate Tonight 5.30pm, free. NELSON RANGELL Punchy bop saxist known for his U6 smooth jazz output. Pizza Express Jazz Club in Street W1 (0171-439 B722) ⊕ Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sai

ANNIE ROSS Vocalist and actress

Park Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-235

5273) → Hyde Park Corner. Mon-Sat 9.15pm & 11.15pm, ends 10 Apr. STEVE SWALLOW Pionaaring 1960s bass guitarist. Ronnle Scott's Frith Street WI (0171-439 0747)

O Leicester Square. Mon-5at 9pm & 11.30pm, ends 3 Apr. £15, INVINCIBLES Trumpeter Damon Brown in fucky mood. Sound Republic Restaurant & Bar Wardour Republic Restaurant & Bar Wardour

Street W1 (0171-413 14231

Deicester Square/Piccadiily Circus.
Tonight 8.30pm, free.

WORCESTER PARK DAVE MARRION BIG BAND 5ixteen-piece swing and modern jazz ensemble. Cagnay's Maldon Road (0181-337 1015) Tonight 8pm. £5.

Last Chance to Book

(0181-463 0100) 8 Apr

IAN DURY (below) AND THE BLOCKHEADS

will be performing a one-off gig in April, and

despite worries about Dury's health, the

band is said to be working on a new album.

Blackheath Concert Halls, London SE3

WELL !

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7 STEEL

RADIO 1

RADIO 2

RADIO 3

6.00 On Air.

oncert (R)

5.00 In Tune.

(88-902MHz FM)

(976-998MHz FM)

Dave Pearce, 8.00 Steve

6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce.

12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed

Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker.

7.00 South by Southwest, 9.00

Giants of Soul. 10.00 Top of the

Alfinson, 12.00 Katrina Leskanich,

Pops 2 on 2. 10.30 Richard

3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

1L00 Sound Stories. **12.00** Composer of the Week:

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.

7.30 Performance on 3. Live from

the Royal Festival Hall, London.

Hakan Hardenberger (trumpet),

BBC Singers, BBC Symphony

Chorus and Orchestra/Andrew

Scenes (BBC commission: first

performance). Britten: Four Sea.

Birtwistle: Endless Parade, See

Pick of the Day. 8.20 The British Renaissance.

AFter a period of stagnation,

British music has been in the

Paul Griffiths surveys the

impressive achievements of

and considers how it is that,

managed to retain something

See Pick of the Day.

peculiarly British in their music.

8.40 Concert, part 2. Tippett:

6.00 Jingle All the Way (1995) (70801). 8.00 The Wedding (1997) (31238), 10.00 Femily Plan (1997) (14881580), 11.50 The

Fifth Element (1997) (1007)3798), 2.00 The Wedding (1997) (24898), 4.00 Jingle All the Way (1989), (29054), 5.30 Family Plan (1997) (4589), 7.30, Merchant Ivory (7561), 8.00

The Fifth Element (1997) (19780). 10.00 LA

Confidential (1997) (27305141), 12.25 Pho-

(1973) (19832), 11.00 The Rockford Files - I Stil Love LA. (1995) (88948), 1.00 Novie Megic (73702), 1.30 Fernmes Fatales

(5025528), 2.15 Action Heroes (7160219).

3.00 Something Borrowed, Something

Blue (1997) (38412), 5.00 The Rockford

Special Report: Journey to Mars (1996) (96239). 8.30 El News Week in Review

(7073), 9.00 Sin and Redemption (1994)

(17509). 11.00 Jackie Chan's First Strike

(1996) (114580), 12.25 Bordello of Blood

(1984) (379468), 3.30 The Last Days of

Frankle the Fly (1996) (749307). 5.05 -

7.00 Something Borrowed, Something

4.00 From Hell to Texas (1958) (7563783).

6.00 Golden Earrings (1947) (2966832). 8.00 A Guide for the Married Man (1967)

22006870), 12.05 The Great White Hope

1970) (4156130), 1.50 The French Connec-

tion II (1975) (6714401), 3.45 Hall, Hell, Rock 77 Roll (1967) (8069352), 5.40 Close.

TELMFOLIR 200 Widows' Peak (1994) (4598306), 8.00

**Jue Sky (1994) (87600528). See Pick of the 2ey, 9.40 Disgraceful Conduct (5041784). **10.00 Blow-Up (1986) (4649561). **1.55
**The Hollow Reed (1995) (3655324). **1.40
**Emple Men (1982) (8544739). 3.25 - 8.00

4.00 Fishing Adventures (1559899). 4.30

A River Somewhere (1548783), 5,00 Searching for Lost Worlds (8883734), 6,00

8.00 Arthur C Clarke (138801), 8.30 Creatures Fantastic (2483798), 8.39 New Kids

Wildlife SOS (1536948), 6.30 Born Wild (3452035), 7.30 Futureworld (1549412).

on the Blog (5391144), 9,00 Nec-Nazi Hunters (3469699), 9,30 Right on Red

Varities (1990) (35406190).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

(2978677), 10.00 The Kremin Let

Blue (1997) (54110081).

SKY CINEMA

6) (2000604). 1.55 Until September

Files - 1 Still Love L.A. (1995) (46509), 7.00

d Again (1991) (886401). 4.000 - 8.00

tographing Fairles (1997) (708739), 2,30

We Great White Hype (1996) (73517).

9.00 Battle for the Planet of the Apes

SKY MOVEMAX

The Vision of St Augustine.

ascendant for the last fifty years.

British composers in this period

plespite the huge diversity of style and technique, they have

Davis, Causton: Willennium

Interludes (Peter Grimes).

4.00 Choral Evensong.

(902-924MHz FM)

9.00 Masterworks

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

Greening, 12.00 Jo Whiley, 2.00 Mark Radolifia, 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S (right) Lamacq - the Evening Session. 19.00 Movie Update with Mark mode, 10.10 John Peel, 12.00 Gallies Peterson. 2.00 Clive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

in Performance on 3 (7.300m the war, begins with the live relay of a BBC symphony orchestra the upsurge is faltering. concert at the Royal Festival Hall



9.40 Postscript. Twenty-five years after W H Auden's death, poets and critics reassess his poetry and make a personal selec-tion of readings (3/5). (R) 10.00 Ensemble. In the final programme of the series, Penny Gore introduces a selection of perfor-

mances by artists featured in recent programmes. Brahms: Intermezzos in B minor, Op 119 No 1; In C, Op 119 No 3. Alexander Taylor (piano). Baermann, attrib Wagner: Adagio for clarinet and strings. Gaudier Ensemble. Janacek: String Quartet No 2 (Intimate Letters). Endellion Quartet. Khachaturian, arr Helfetz: Sabre Dance, Nicola Loud (violin), Sam Haywood (piano). 10.45 Night Waves. Laura Cum-

ming explores the way the metro, subway and underground systerns of the world's cities have in-spired writers and artists. She taks to novelist and biographer Peter Ackroyd, whose new book The Plato Papers' focuses on the trial of Plato the orator in AD 3700. **11.30** Jazz Notes 12.00 Composer of the Week:

Schubert. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. RADIO 4 1924-946MHz FM 6.00 Today.

9.00 NEWS; Midweek 9.45 Senal: Plate. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour, 1100 NEWS; Southal Stories. 11.30 Our Man at Wembley. (FI) 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Inspiration!.

4.30 The Larger Map. 5.00 PML 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News

with arts reviews, news and inter-7.45 High Days, Holy Days. A selection of readings for Easter. 3: Easter Eggs. From the paschal

James Joyce and Pope Plus V Kathryn Hunt, Leo McKern and 8.00 NEWS; The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet

8.45 Lent Talks. 'The Dove Descanding'. Writers from a variety of religious perspectives offer their views on the Easter story. in drenched, drug-hazed trip to Trinidad caused him to question accounts of the Resurrection. 9.00 NEWS; Under Pressure. Pop star turned particle physicist Brian Cox struggles to finish his experiments before a big conference. Are his bits of atoms real or just a figment of his imagination? 9.30 Midweek Libby Purves and guests engage in lively conversa-

10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: My Mother's House. Janet Suzman reads Colette's memoir (3/5). The young Colette is caught up in her family's traditions and ceremonies concerning marriage and child-

birth (R) 11.00 NEWS; Old Harry's Game. Andy Hamilton's award-winning six-part comedy series, set in hell. 2: 'Another Country'. The Professor is convinced that societies evolve and mature. Then Satan introduces him to Bill Clinton. With James Grout, Jimmy Mulville and Robert Duncan. 11.30 Im Glad You Asked Me

12.00 News 12-30 The Late Book: Age of 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping. 11.30 -12.00 Today in Partiament. **RADIO 5 LIVE**

(693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Brian Hayes 12.00 The Midday News. 100 lan Payne. 4.00 Drive. 7.00 News Extra

RADIO 4 LW

710 John inverdale's Football. 10.00 Littlejohn. 11.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson Including a late news briefing at 1100, and at 1115 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Balley. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1280kHz MW 105,BMHz FM) 6.30 Russ Williams 9.30 Mark Forrest, 100 Nick Abbot, 4.00 Harriet Scott. 6.45 London Caling. 7.30 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Gary Davies. 100 Richard Allen. 4.30 - 6.30 Phil Kennedy.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. 1.30 One Planet. 1.55 My Century. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Meridian (Live). 3.00 The World Today. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 - 7.00 The World Today (430-700)

David Banks and Paul Ross.

68870), 8.25 Babaloos (1864509), 8.30

Try Tales (9832290, 8-35 Thy 4579529, 8-36 Thy 4579529, 8-50 Perenting (9006257). 9.00 Special Sables (8783896). 9-30 Roseanne (7653580), 10.00 Jerry Springer (9991344). 10.50 Maury Povich (3390122). 11.40 Bookside (237344), 12.40 Through the Keyhole (237344). 12.40 Through 13.40 Keyhole (237344).

21082141), 12.40 Rescue 911-(46959734)

Povich (4597615), 2.30 Special Bables

the Keyhole (59574219), 5.300 Heat is On

(\$644861), 6.45 Jerry Springer (1305/257).

Z.05 Rescue 911 (456783), Z.35 Animal Rescue (4434870), 8.00 LA Law (2998431),

9.00 Film: Everything to Gain (2968290).

9.00 Abbott and Costello in Hollywood

(68315509). 1.45 Westworld (1973)

(1945) (33333054). TLOO White Heat (1949)

(71400352), 3.00 Shaft (1971) (84957197).

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Jenny (4764), 7.30 Grace under Fire

(4073), 8.00 Ellen (3412), 8.30 Spin City

9219). 8.00 Dead Donkey (30986). 9.30

Whose Line is it Anyway? (45967). 10.00

Frasisr (95106), 10,30 Cheers (17666), 11,00 Seinfeld (35431), 11,30 Larry Sanders

(87431). 12.00 Letterman (45791). 1.00 Gar-

y Shanding (20975), 1.30 Nurses (67994).

49159, 3.00 Almost Perfect (40736), 3.30

2.00 Dr Katz (53352), 2.30 Tibe and Fibs

8.00 Within These Walls (6128764). 7.00

How's Your Father? (3306801), 7,30 The

Odd Couple (4651798), 8.00 Families

47155091, 8.30 Mind Your Language

10.00 Uostairs. Downstairs (2756162).

11.00 Gentle Touch (8356306). 12.00

Coronation Street (47:8696), 12,30 Emmerciale (196122), 1,00 Mind Your Lan-

guage (4758342), 1.30 Me and My Girl (195493), 2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs

(7846238). 3.00 Love Boat (2815789). 4.00

Professionels (2394290), 5.00 Hart to Hart (445798), 8.00 Emmerdale (2436219), 6.30

Coronation Street (2450899), 7.00 Profee-sionals (9425948), 8.00 Benny Hill

Haie and Pace (4719325), 10.30 Wheeltap-

pers' and Shursers (4728073). 11.00 Grans-da Men & Motors (2331144). 2.00 Close.

(9434696), 9.00 Sweeney (9

14707580L 9.00 Coronation Street (4798832), 9u30 Emmerdale (†192306)

Abbott & Costello (63736), 4,00 Close.

GRANADA PLUS

11.00 Sex Fles (7934238), 12.00 Close

(15266851), 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook

1.10 Beyond Bellef (39389580), 1.40 Maury

(9750509), 3.00 Jerry Springer (9882967), 3.50 Michael Cole (4152783), 4.40 Through

TALK RADIO 6.00 David Banks and Paul Ross. 9.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James. 12.00 Let's Talk Pets. 1.00 Anna Raeburn, 4.00 Sport-Zone. 7.00 Seb Coe. 8.00 Big Issues with Simon Heffer, 10.00 James Whale. 12.00 - 6.00

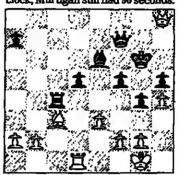
INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to Murugan Thiruchelvam, from New Malden in Surrey, who, at the age of 10 years and three months has become the youngest player ever to defeat a grandmaster.

His splendid feat, which cut nine days off the record previously held by the American Hikaru Nakamura, came on Sunday in the third game of a specially arranged rapidplay match with the grandmaster Jonathan Levitt.

Ironically, Levitt, who came fifth in the British Open rapidplay championships last year and won the best game prize there, had been dominating the third game - whereas he had just escaped from the ropes after Murugan conducted the second splendidly. But an attack of overconfidence allowed the young titan to trap his queen. And though Murugan became very nervous and Levitt squirmed so well that he at one point missed a draw, the grandmaster finally resigned in a dead lost position with one second left on his clock; Murugan still had 90 seconds.



Jonathan Levitt vs Murugan Thiruchelvam (3rd game)

32 Be5?? Rc8! 33 Qxc8 Bxc8 34 Rc1 Bb7 35 Rc7 Qe6 36 Bd4 Ba6 37 Rxa7 Qc6 38 Kh2 Qc4 39 Rg7+ Kh6 40 Rf7 Qd3 41 a4 Bc4 42 Rf6+ Kh7 43 Kg3 Qe4 44 f3 Qc2 45 fxg4 hxg4 46 Kf4 Qe4+ 47 Kg5 g3! 48 Rf7+ Kg8 49 Rg7+ Kf8 50 Kf6 Qxh4+ 51 Ke6 Qh6+ 52 Kxf5 Bd3+ 53 Kg4 Qh2 54 Ra7 Be2+ 55 Kg5 Qh5+ 56 Kf6 Qh6+ 57 Ke5 Qg5+ 58 Kd6 Bf1?? 59 Ra8+ Kf7 60 Ra7+ Kg8 61 Rg7+?? Qxg7 62 Bxg7 Kxg7 83 Ke5 Bxg2 64 Kf4 Kf6 65 Kxg3 Bf1 66 Kf4 Ke6 67 b4 Kd6 68 a5 Bd3 69 Kf3 Ke5 70 Kf2 Ke4 71 Ke1 Kxe3 72 Kd1 Bb5 0-1

58 ... Bf1?? was a gross blunder 58 ...Qd8+ 59 Rd7 Qb8+ 60 Kxd5 Bf1 would have been clean enough. For 61 Ra8+ Kf7 (not 61 ... Kh7 62 Rh8+ Kg6 63 Rg8+) 62 Ra7!+ is a

After a draw in game four, a tired Murugan was dispatched by Levitt in the final two games for a match score of 3.5-2.5 in favour of the

White: Jonathan Levitt Black: Murugan Thiruchelyam London 1999 (5th game)

Queen'a Gambit Declined 1 d4 d5 16 Bd3 a5 17 g5 h5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 18 g6 f6 4 Bg5 Be7 19 Qe2 Bb4 5 e3 0-0? 20 Ng5! fxg5 6 Nf3 b6 21 hxg5 Qxg5 7 Qc2 h6 22 Rdg1 Qxg1+ 8 Bxf6 Bxf6 23 Rxg1 Ne6 9 e4 Bb7 24 Qxh5 Kf8 10 cxd5 exd5 25 f4 Ke7 11 e5 Re8 26 f5 Rh8 12 0-0-0 Bg5+ 27 Qg4 Nxd4 13 Kb1 Nd7 28 f6+ gxf6 14 b4 Be7 29 exf6+ 15 g4 Nf8 1-0

5 ...0-0 was inaccurate - he should play 5 ...h6 6 Bh4 and then 0-0. If 9 ... dxe4 10 Qxe4! At the end. the attack was overwhelming.

But this sharp reverse only underlines the impressiveness of Murugan's earlier play.

Game all: dealer North

BRIDGE ALAN HIRON

THIS WAS an old par contest hand with hidden beauties. Suppose that South plays in Four Spades - how do you rate his chances after West has led +7?

I would imagine that the bidding had started One Heart - One Spade; Two Diamonds - Two Spades, Making one final move, North tried Three Diamonds and, in view of the quality of his suit, South now jumped to Four Spades. The directed lead was indeed \$7 and, after taking his two tricks in the suit. East led a third

South followed suit perforce and West's natural-looking play was to ruff ahead of dummy with +6. It does not help him for, although this is the third trick for the defence, declarer wins any red suit return in dummy and is able to draw all the remaining trumps with the aid of a simple finesse.

Aha! But West could have set a cunning trap! Suppose that on the third round of clubs he ruffs with ♠2! Dummy over-ruffs and South comes to hand with a red ace and a ruff in order to lead A and Q. No good, for East wins with his king and can lead a fourth round of clubs for West to score the setting trick with +9.

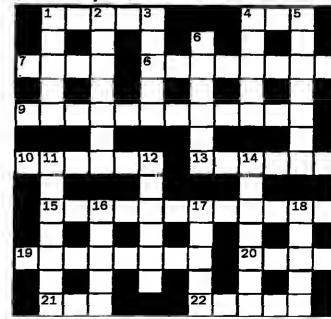
North **♥AQ973** OAK764 **♣**KJ West East **+9862 ◆**K7 ♥J62 ♥K 1084 **♦Q953 ♦**J 108 +72 +AQ53 South **◆**AQJ1053 02 **₹109864**

Very neat indeed, but South did not have to fall into this tempting trap. When West ruffs the third round of clubs with his \$2, declarer simply discards a low red card from the table. Then, as dummy still has a spade left, the trump finesse can: be taken and the rest of the trumps drawn without further loss.

I was just about to observe that the whole hand had all the elegance ' of a constructed deal, when I . remembered that it was a constructed deal.

No.3884 Wednesday 31 March

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS Foolish (5) Defraud (3)

Fuel hydrocarbon (8) Weak spot (8,4) Dissimulation (6) 13 Thin (6)

Members of emergency service (12)

20 Inlet (4) Consume (3) 22 Decree (5)

Bumpkin (5) Social class (5) Bewilder (7) Emergency (6) Impose (7) Type of sweet (6) Indigestion remedy (7) 16 Correct (5)

wind (3,4)

Relating to sound (5) Shoreward flow with the

DOWN

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Harm, 4 Wrest (Armrest), 9 Casis, 10 Hainbow, 11 Test tube, 12 Icon, 13 Reception room, 17 Hood, 18 Addendum, 21 Ghoose, 22 Flore, 23 Times, 2 Lift. DOWN: 2 Apses, 3 Missien, 4 Word bilmoness, 5 Royl, 6 Tobacc, 7 Doctor, 8 Swan, 14 Croquet, 15 Needful, 16 Mammal, 17 High, 19 Droll, 20 Worm.

mental state while writing Jone Eyre is contextualised and maginatively reconstructed in the Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4). The last and largest event in Radio 3's Sounding the Century festival, "Endless Parade", a celebration of British music since

R3). An impressive sample has been drawn from Birtwistle. Britten, Tippett and Richard Causton. Midway through, in The British Renaissance (8.20pm R3). Paul Griffiths offers an opinion as to why there is an abundance of compositional talent and sounds a warning note that DOMINIC CAVENDISH

2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Making Space. See Pick of the Day. 3.00 NEWS; Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Rigby's Red Herrings. (R) 3.45 This Sceptred Isle. (R) 4.00 NEWS; Four Walls. 6.30 King Street Junior. (H) 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 725 Front Row Mark Lawson

egg to the Faberge egg, from pace-egg rolling in Newcastle to the lawns of The White House, As related by Katherine Mansfield, among others. Read by Charlotte Cornwell, Denys Hawthorne, Lesie Philips.

Daley, David Starkey, lan Harg-reaves and David Cook investigate the moral questions behind the week's news.

the last of the series, novelist Rhidian Brook relates how a sun-

SATELLITE AND CABLE

The qualification process for film, was not a box-office smash,

officer (Powers Booth).

PICK OF THE DAY

BLUE SKY (Spon FilmFour). Tooy an ill-advised affair with another

but it showcases two marvellous the European Championships in the Low Countries next year is performances. Jessica Lange (right) has always impressed really hotting up. A lot is riding as women on the verge of a on tonight's game, Scotland vs Czech Republic (7pm Sky nervous breakdown (cf Frances). Sports 1). The Scottish manager, She picked up an unexpected, yet well-merited Best Actress Craig Brown, will be hoping that Oscar, as the wife of a military the rejuvenated Gary McAllister man (the equally good Tommy marshalls the team with his Lee Jooes). When he is sent usual sense of authority. away on duty, she embarks on JAMES RAMPTON

(156290), 10.00 Casualties of Peace (3835054), 10.30 From Russia with Love (3844702) 4LDO Proleso Heart (3464344) 11.30 Corneback City (2802580). 12.00 History of Writing (6443994), 1.00 Searching for Lost Worlds (6255245), 2.00 Close.

Richardson's (Tom Jones) last

7.00 Court Duckula (56035), 7.30 Grimmy (68870), 8.00 Earthworm Jim (20561), 8.30 Godzilla (29632), 9.00 Pokamon (43412). 9.30 Simpsons (87344), 10.00 Station Raiders (4615), 10.30 Xens (16122), 11.30 Legend of the Hidden City (71219). 12.00 Terran (77967), 1.00 Mad about You (55305), 1.30 Jeopardy (8043), 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (42344), 3.00 Jenny Jones (75035), 4.00 Polemon (4238), 4.30 Shad-ow Raiders (3122), 5.00 Star Treic Voyager (3493), 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminals (4615), 6.30 Friends (5967), 7.00 Simpsons (4122), 7.30 Simpsons (4851), 8.00 Mortal (122) 230 Striptons (431) 4300 X Fies (52290) 10.00 Mami Lincovered (5867). 11.00 Friends (55899). 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (34696). 12.30 Law and Order (52913). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (4921333).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Centre (4222073), 7.15 Unlimited (360306), 8.15 You're on (7683162), 9.00 Racing (12141). 9.30 Aerobics (56073). 10.00 Football (13344). 11.00 Fastrax (2580), 11.30 Total (20509), 12.00 Aerobics (4567), 12.30 Snooker (81699), 2.30 Fastrax (2239), 3.00 Football (24325), 4.00 Bouts (26572), 5.00 Pool (5493), 8.00 Centre (3967), 6.30 Unbelevable (4219).

7.00 European Championship Football: Scotland vs Czech Republic (877734). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Centre (366528). (14073), 12.00 Centre (4522333), 12.15 You're on (7462265), 1.00 Football (82401). 2.30 Rugby (84371), 4.00 Centre (4559246), 4.15 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics (691303f), 7.30 Centre (4728293), 7.45 Racing (8878528), 8.45 Fea-trax (5745696), 8.45 Centre (5747141), 9.00 Fish (5918073), 9.30 Fish (1603948), 10.00 Gall (1818412) 12.00 Footbell (8390344) 2.00 Got (1615851), 5.00 Unimited (55/6035), 6.00 Watersports (16/5783). 200 (1954957), 10.00 Ptupby (2886870), 11.30 Ptupby (2886870), 1.30 Ptupby (2016), 11.30 Ptupby (1968957), 1.00 Golf (1742623), 1.30 Westersports (4201517), 2.30 Centre (29392772), 2.45 Closs. SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Sports (19018306). 1.00 Fish miership (27651290), 2.30 Bouts (1917815). (27674141), 6.00 Wotor Racing (14502412). 6.30 Golf (14593784), 7.00 Rugby (29487293) 8,30 Ringside (90184493). 10,00 Classics (49339493), 11,30 Class.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Superbia (97948) 9.00 Curing (62122) 11.80 Motocross (14948), 11.30 Car on Ice (15677), 12.00 Official (51754). Tennis (22306), 5.00 Olympic Magazine (1054), 5.30 Start Your Engines (33528). 6.30 Strength (85493), 7.30 Roler Skating (13764), 9.30 Footbel (54493), 11.30 Start Your Engines (81764), 12.30 Close.

bours (\$262'9), 7.55 EastEnders (1434'08). 8.30 The Bill (3832967). 9.00 The Bill (38232'19), 8.30 The House of Blott 38722, 10,30 Phoda (3845431), 11.00 Deltes 4676899, 11.55 Neichbours 832). 12.25 EastEnders (2501986) 1.00 Buos (1173967), 2.00 Deles (7482290) 2.55 The Bit (1404561), 3.25 The Bit 05577701 3.55 FastEnders (201035) L30 Rhoda (1540141), 5.00 Al Creatures (7330238, Z40 Last of the Summer Wine (479561), 8.20 The Britiss Empire 39509, 8.00 One Foot in the Grave 16251221, 9.40 Catherine Cookson (2910420), 1.25 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em (1604333), 2.25 Man from Auntie (6666536). 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping (\$392966

6.00 Tiny (76091525), 6.20 10 plus 2 (48425561), 6.40 Greedysaurus (96094141), 6.45 Philbert (96093412), 6.50 Police Dot Snorts (98081677). 7.00 Parenting (3860344). 7.05 Professor Bubble (1935035). 7.30 Calliou (6462899). 7.35 Bug Alert (7333431). 7.55 Parenting (9458493), 8.00 Barney

UK GOLD 7.00 Crossroads (8105851), 7.20 Neigh

Great and Smell (6083752). 6.00 Dynasty (196431). 7.00 Ever Decreasing Circles (4688073), 11.20 The Bill (8752035), 11.55 The Bill (1349035), 12.25 Between the Lines

1.00 Equestrism (4042), 2.00 US PGA Golf Tour (86702), 3.00 Tennis (8509), 3.30

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BEC: N KRELAND As BBC1 LONDON & SE except: 6.30 Newsline 6.30 (615). 9.30 Titanic -Made in Belfast (523344). 10.30 Jasper Carnott - Back to the Front (289870). 10.40 Laughter in the House: the Story of British Sitcom (334239). 11.30 Fam 99 with Jonathan Ross (98509). 12.00 The Word on the Street 440256231. The Word on the Street (4025623). 12.13 Film: Mr Basebell (633826), 1.55 Joine BBC News 24 (54157772).

John BSC News 24 (5457772).

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
12.30 Dotaman (92902141), 12.45
Tirean Seunta (Enchanied Lands)
(21982783), 6.00 News (685), 6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (615), 2.30
Cancer Stories (36896), 10.00 Sportscene / Match of the Day Scotland v
Catch Republic (771054, 11.35 LaughTach the House: the Story of British Sitin (132561), 12.25 Film: Mr Baseball
(#19062), 2.30 News 24 (65978031).

BBC: WALES As BSC1 LONDON & SE except: 8.30 Wales Today (615). 10.50 The State (915696). 11.30 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross (96599). 12.00 The Word on the Streat (4025623). 12.35 Weish Questions (57975). 12.45 Film: Mr Baseball (493420). **2.30** Joins BBC News 24 (2152505). ANGLIA

ANGLIA
As Carthon except: 12.20 Anglia
As Carthon except: 12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (7762290): 12.55
Shortland Street (9430035): 1.30 Home
and Away (35/43702): 1.55 The Jerry
Springer Show (1284126): 3.10 ITV
News Headlines (4275219): 3.15 Anglia
News and Weather (4267290): 5.30
Whipenade (290): 6.00 Anglia News
(431): 11.35 Anglia News and Weather
(579073): 11.25 Film: Connades of
Summer (725431): 1.20 Film: Confidential (932791): 3.05 Tickia (6759178).
4.30 Living a Bug's Life (1141064).
4.35 ITV Nightschen (42628604).
5.00 Coronation Street (54401).

CENTRAL As Carrion Shows (7762290), 12.55 News and Weather (7762290), 12.55 Home and Away (4011344), 2.50 Echo Point (56922986), 5.30 Shortland Street (290). 6.00 Central News at Six (431). 11.15 Central News and Weather (579073). 4.05 Jobfinder (8795246). 5.20 Asian Eye (9921130). HTY WALES

As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (44036580), 12.45 HTV News

and Weather (4524122), 12.55 Shortland Street (9430035), 1.30 Home and Away (35143702), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (1284125), 3.45 TTV News Headines (4275219), 3.45 HTV News (4267290), 5.30 Up Beat (290), 5.00 HTV News (431), 11.55 HTV News and Weather (579073), 11.25 Film: Contractes of Summer (725431), 1.20 Film: Confidential (332791), 3.05 Trisha (6759178), 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628604), 5.00 Coronation Street (54401).

HTV West As HTV Wales except: 5.30 Live and Local (290). As Cariton except: 10.30 This Morning (44035580). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (4520722). 12.55 Shortland Street (9430035). 1.30 Home

Shortland Street (9430035). 1,30 Home and Away (35143702). 1,55 The Jerry Springer Show (1284126). 3,50 ITV News Headlines (4275219). 3,15 Meridian News and Weather (4257290). 5,00 Home and Away (4344). 5,25 Three Minutes (9717716). 5,30 Eig Day Out (290). 6,00 Meridian Tonight (431). 11,15 Meridian News and Weather

(579073). **11.25** Film: Comrades of Summer (725431). **1.20** Film: Confidential (932791). **3.05** Trisha (6759176). 4.30 Living a Sug's Life (41141084). 4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628804). 5.00 Freescreen (54401). WESTCOUNTRY

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carifors except: f0.30 This
Morring (44036580). 12.15 Westcountry
News (4524122). 12.27 likuminations
(7797509). 12.55 Westcountry
Lunchtime Live (4011344). 3.16 ITV
News Headines (4275219). 3.15 Westcountry News (4287290). 5.30 Peter
Gorton for Starters (280). 6.00 Westcountry Live (431). 1.15 Westcountry
News (579073). 11.25 Firm: Conracies
of Summer (725431). 1.20 Firm: Confacter
derrial (632791). 3.05 Trishe (6799178).
4.10 Living a Bug's Life (4144084).
4.35 ITV Nightscreen (42628604).
5.00 Coronation Street (54401).
YORKSHIRE YORKSHIRE

As Caritton except: 12.15 Calendar News and Weather (45.2422), 12.55 Home and Away (4013.44, 2.10 Em-merdale (56.22296), 5.30 Tonight (290, 5.00 Calendar (431, 14.15 Cal-endar News and Weather (579073), 4.15 Conference (57.8720)

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 12:15
North East News and Weather (4533870), 12.25 Jobsnik (7787509). 5.20 North East Tonight (26290). 11.15 North East News and Local

As Channel 4 excepts

6.00 Sesame Street (88304832). 12.00 Bewitched (97595509). 12.00 Sewimbrid (9789509), 1.00 Planed Plant (67357948), 1.30 Australia Wild (97882967), 2.05 Plim: The Proud Valley* (79642219), 4.30 Planed Plant (9083671), 5.00 Planed Plant (9083671), 5.30 Countdown (67651871), 6.00 Newardian (67615431), 6.00 Newyddion (33931764). **6.10** Heno (50350290). **6.35** Pobol y Cwm (31119122). **7.05** Pel-Droed: Y Swistir v Cymru (39555696). **9.15** Newyddion (38822509), 9.45 E R (15178764). 10.40 Brookside (48410702), 11.45 Sex and the City (38835073), 11.45 The 11 O'Clock Show (38834344), 12.15 Michael Moore - the Awful Truth (14410994), 3.45 Transworld Sport 91246). 4.40 Close.

ROBERT

200

BBC1

5.0D Bueinsse Breekfest (74580). **7.00** Naws (1) (35257). **9.00** Kliroy (2035898). **9.45** Styls Challenge (7082324). **10.10** The Vanesse Show (5) (7924236). **10.55** News; Regionel News; Weether (1) (3577325). **11.00** Change That (5) (3587702). **11.25** Can't Cock, Won't Cock (S) (1) (355756). **11.55** News; Regionel News; Weather (1) (744289). **12.00** Call My Bluff (5) (8948). **12.30** Mp Bout (S) (4018257). **12.59** The Weather Show (S) (1) (33152257). **1.00** News; Weather (1) (39344). **1.30** Regional News; Weather (50074832). **1.40** Neighbours (S) (35114280). **2.05** Through the Keyhole (56805219).

2.35 Midweek Reoing from Ascot. Clare Belding Introducee the 240, 3.10 and 3.40pm races (S) (2055580)

3.50 Children's BBC: ChuckleVision (S) (T) (4978877), 4.10 See It, Sew It (S) (T) (5916986), 4.35 The Wild House (S) (T) (3555035), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (4210561), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (9914948).

5.35 Neighbours. Joel is fighting for his life, white Sally and Drew ere ambivelent about the platonic stetus of their friendship (S) (T) (932783).

5.00 News; Weather (T) (885).

5.30 Rogional News. And weather (T) (615).

Holiday on a Shoestring. Fisherman's cotteges on Croaties Kornati Islands, ssli-cetering in Barbados, end family holidaye in Mejorca (S) (T) (94/2).

5.00 Only Fools and Horses. Del attends a school reunion and there is a guest appearance by Jim Broadbent (R) (S) (T) (256073). the discovery of a gene for stomech cencer, and Philippa Forrester champs on the latest food for

9.5D National Lottsry - Greatest Hits. With Ba Windsor and Mike Reid (B) (183696).

Regional News; Weather (T) (9483)

9.3D Jasper Cerrott - Beok to the Front. The back-to-his rocizzz Brummie comedien doss some routines on sexual parmissiveness and Pelsr Stringletow (36696).

10.00 [N:1016] Laughter in the House: the Story of Britteh Sitcom. The second episode of this authoriteitve Omribus history of the British sitcom considers "The Sensetionel Seventies". See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (77:054).

10.50 Film 99 with Jonathan Ross. Jozza take to John Travolta about his new film, A Civil Action, and reviews Robert Carlyls's historical romp, Plunkett and Macleane, and the re-release of Night of the Hunter (S) (1) (981528) 11.2D The Word on the Strest. The Bishop of Liverpool talks to Mohamed Al Fayed – not about the boy Keegen, but ebout society's attituda to wealth (299325).

11.39 IIIM Mr Besebsii (Fred Schepisi 1893 US). Tom Seleck stars as e washed-up baseball ece who is trying to revive his career in Japen in this culture-clash comedy that is better known for the controversy surrounding its making. Universal's new owners, Matsushita, claimed it was anti-Jepanese (Than Weather) (5) (472122). To 1.20em.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

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insurance with حصد ك 15% off your premittin!

PITCDM (10pm BBC1) "The 1070s were the goldsn age of the British sitcom" begins the second part of this Omnibus trilogy immediately putting one on aostalgia alert. After clips from Fundty Towers (right), The Good Life, Butterflies, Man about the House, Porridge and Rising Damp, one submits to the thesis. Racism was the fly in the ointment, of course, from Rigsby's inflammed fantasies in Rising Damp to the inflamous Love Thy Neighbour, where the West Indian neighbours were known as "this work." The

HUNTING VENUS (Spm ITV, right) Neil Morrissey, the ferminally laddish Tony in Men Bellaving Badity, playing a post-op transsexual might seem to heve possibilities as a feminist revenge fantasy—but Nick Vivian's connedy drame is more interested in nostalgia. It tells of a long-scattered 1980s New Romantic pop group that is blackmelled into reforming by two former fans. A useful cest (also including Mertin Clunes and Jane Horrocks) could have done with fewer Gary Numan gags and a generally enappier script. And one kept on hoping for more than just the tantalising snippets we get of Ultravox, Human League, Spandau Bsilet and their lik.

COMEDY DRAMA OF THE DAY

3.05 Trishe (2502913), **4.06** Soundtrax (46968888), **4.15** ITV Nightscreen (6784130). To 4.15em.

CGU Direct

0800 121 004 Please quote ref: PRS160

840 The Verneoular Tredition (2484325), 5, at the Alhambra (1) (558/509), 7.00 Polka D. (2721035), 740 The Silver Brumby (8282059), High Private Eye (R) (3930344), 7.55 The BC (R) (S) (8801560), 9.20 Burlad Treasure (550 The Really Wild Show (3377896), 9.40 Goob-Ghost Chasere (R) (S) (8724211), 9.35 Stude (R) (S) (5282342), 10.00 Teletubbles (S) (900)

Keusch 1983 US). Loose, contemporary version of the Merk Twein cleasic, which seas streetwise Miseouri kid, Billy "Huck" Thomas (played by Chauncey Leopard) running away from his mother's ebusive boyfriend and befriending a Nelive American (S) (38696).

12.00 Wildlife 9howcase (69280). 12.30 Working Lunch (47702). 1.00 Brum (56471832). 1.10 The Leisure Hour (9427561). 2.10 Sporting Greeta (S) (56995832). 2.40 News; Regional News; Weether (T) (3749122). 2.45 Weetminster (S) (T) (5421509). 3.50 News; Regional News; Weether (T) (6608509). 3.55 Keya (S) (9831888). 4.25 Ready, Steedy, Cook (S) (T) (6610344). 4.55 Eather (R) (5686325). 5.30 Whose House? (S) (764).

5.45 Buffy the Vampire Sleyer. Gliss discovers an encient book foreisiling Buffy's death at the hands of the Master (S) (T) (484899).

9.00 University Challenge. The Open University take Birkbeck College, London (S) (T) (8702).

9.00 The Good Life. As a taster for tonight's documentary about British elicoms in the 1970s, here's an episode of the classic self-sufficiency comedy. Tom (Richard Briere) builds a generator fuelled by pig dung (R) (T) (7035).

9.30 Trouble at the Top: Too Meny Cooks. Following the tortunee of the Pierre Victolire restaurent chain, which, at its zenith, acquired more then 100 prime sites across the country, but which went bust with debts of over £10m lest summer. Can the reconstituted bistrochein make a fresh start? (S) (T) (521986).

10.30 Newsnight. Paxman (T) (84)509). 10.10 The Car's the Ster. The E-type Jaguar (B) (694851)

11.15 B9C Young Musicians. The progremme visite a music class for under-twos (Then Weatherview) (5) (433702). OD Despetch Box (S) (94868). 12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University – A Formidebis Fos (Π) (73807). 1.00 Sex and the Single Gene (Π) (11284). 1.30 The Art of Breathing (Π) (45739). 2.00 Schools: GCSE Bitasize: Matha – Pt 1 (Π) (31178). 4.00 Lenguages: España Viva 7 & 6 (28442). 5.00 Bueiness and Training: Sq You Want to Work in Social Care? (87975). 5.30 20 Staps to Better Menagement (7061772). Το 545am.

BBC2

5.00 Ster Trek: The Next Deneration. After a myelsricus accident, Picerd wakee up living eomeone eleeb life on another planet. Just another day on the USS Enterprise then (R) (S) (T) (628886).

Sophie Drigson's Herbs. This week looks at edible flowers, as Grigson uses scented gerenkime in a moist almond cake and rosse in a dressed sated. Plus, Peuf Rankin's recipea for elderflower fritters (S) (T) (141).

8.30 Looking Dood. Three viewere test the letest hitech moisturking creams, while Bheiti Vyee looks at essential pregnency geer (B) (T) (2509).

nting Yenus. Comedy drama in which of a disbanded New Romentic pop group a linto re-forming. See Cornedy Drame of (1) (41212528).

don Tonight (T) (579073). News; Weether (1) (238948).

11.25 [A][M] Commit 1993 US), David Mantagna, pleys who agrees to c 1.25 IIIM Confid private-eye sega fixated with a 30 dential (Bruce Pittmen 1988 US). Film noir a in which a 1940s LA reporter becomes 0-year-old axe-murder case (979771).

34325), **5.39** Tilings Polka Dot Shorts B262069), **7.30** Inch-**5** The Bota Master Sure (5504054), **8,40 10** Goober and the **35** Student Bodies (S) (80967),

7.00 Emmerdale. The increasingly unstable Grahem (psycho storylinee in the offing, one suspects) is furious about Rechel's perly. Plus, the truth about Stalla (4580).

7.30 Coronetion Street. Ken and Dairdre are getting on better than expected, and it can't be long before firty-eyed Tom and Maxine are grappling amid tha conditioner end curling tonge (S) (T) (987).

9.00 Two Strangers and o Wadding. A sort of overextended Billno Date report, this documentary (the first
of two) follows Carla Garmaina and Greg Cordell, the
couple who femously won a radio competition and got
merried at their first encounter (the balt was a luxury
honeymoon in the Carlbbean, and a fuxury epertment
and a car for a year). See this week's OKI magazine for
further dstelle (S) (T) (9509).

redee of Summer (Tommy Lee Wallace I'd Marnel's favourite leeding man, Joe 379 a prematuraly retired baseball player 3 coach a Russian teem (448670).

5.00 Home and Away (S) (T) (4344).

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (431).

6.30 ITV Evening Newsj Weather (1) (783).

10.00 Sex and the City. Carrie thinks she might be pregnant (S) (T) (15815).

11.00 The 11 O'Clock Show, Zzzatire (T), (4848).

Carlton

5.00 GMTV (52 89257).

9.25 Trishe (S) (T) (8421966). 10.30 This Morning (T) (57089257). 12.20 Your Shout (7762290). 12.30 ITV Lunchlime News; Weether (T) (4003326). 12.55 London Todsy (T) (401344). 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (4883236). 2.40 Home and Away (S) (T) (56822966). 2.40 Whael of Fortune (S) (T) (85(2734).

3.20 Children's 3.30 Teddy 3.10 ITV News Heedlines (1) (5586238).

4.39 Wildtr * ITVI Mopatop's Shop (4266783). Vbesra (9248696), 3.40 Jumanji (R) (S) (T) 4.05 Hay Amoldi (R) (T) (5691219). rack (T) (3573431).

5.30 London Bridge. Dino's plot to get rid of Ray goes horribly wrong. Natch (S) (290). 3,30 Col

9.00 Dewson's Dreek. When Joey pursuss her natural gifts as an artiet it allenetes Dawson, while Jack displays a new side of his personality as a sensitive art lover (T) (804306).

5.50 T4orce (644677).

7.00 Chennel 4 News; Weather. Including handlines et 7.30pm (5) (1) (174035).

7.55 Dovetells. The sollor of Sunday World explains how the reduction of violence to report in Northern Ireland has forced him to broaden his horizone (T) (258752).

9.30 Doors to Manual. Paris is this week's destination in the city-break guide (1) (7677). 9.00 Brookside. Jackis tells Jimmy that she cannot take any more lies. Mind you, this is from the woman who stretches the phrese "one lest chance" further then it's ever been stretched before (5) (T) (1870).

9.00 IIII The Kid from 9rooklyn (Normen Z McLeod 1948 US). Mild-mannsred milkman Danny Kaye eccidentally knocks out a world boxing chempion during en incident outsides a nightclub and sinds up fightling for the middleweight title. This remake of a Harold Lloyd silent cornedy cornea laden with songs (T) (405/6528). 5.00 5 News and Sport (S) (2158342), 7.00 WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (8463515), 7.30 Milksheke! (S) (2988141), 7.35 Dappledown Farm (R) (4967870), 9.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (R) (S) (2180493), 9.30 Wilchworld (2189764), 9.00 Hot Property (R) (S) (T) (7218031), 5.25 Ausself Grant's Postcards (R) (4749412), 9.30 The Oprah Wilniey Show (S) (8586211), 10.20 Sunset Beach (S) (T) (3936054), 11.10 Leaze (R) (S) (9715603), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (2183580), 12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (8462986), 1.30 The Bodd and the Beautiful (S) (T) (8462986), 1.30 The Roseanne Show (S) (1560073), 2.00 100 Per Cant Gold (S) (9448702), 2.30 Good Affamoon (S) (1047290).

9.00 ER. To celebrate the hospitals 100th enniversery, Carter ascorts a 100-year-old women and her fismity on a tour of County General. And Hathaway treats en eight-year-old boy who seems unable to explain why his best friend died white they were in the park (S) (T) (9515).

10.30 Kichael Mooro – the Awful Truth (S) (T) (91035).

11.30 90 Grehem Norton (R) (422513).
12.10 Le Petit Peckage (4032813). 12.25 Board Stupid (8245352). 12.55 F3 on 4 (R) (2576739). 1.26 Football Itelie - Mezzanotte (55390082). 3.45 Transworld Sport (R) (1204604). 4.40 Soviet Echoes (R) (S) (T) (8665265).
5.55 Seeame Street (5333975). To 7sm.

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6.00 Sesema Street (R) (67290). **7.00** The Big Breekfast (28987).

Trevelog Treks (3579783). **11.30** Powerhouse (T) (3696). **12.00** Sesame Street (T) (14986). **12.30** Bewitched (R) (S) (T) (32870). **1.00** Pet Rescue (S) (T) (22054). **1.30** Collectors' Lot: Little Gems (T) (59081122).

1.50 EIIOIN The Night My Number Came Up (Leslle Norman 1956 US), Airlina pilot Michael Redgreve's nightmares begin to come true. See Film of the Day, balow (76725861).

Collectors' Let (T) (561). 4.00 Fifteen to One (T) (686), 4.30 Countdown (T) (3572702). 4.59 Ricki Lake (T) (5680493). 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (632). 5.20 5 News (S) (T) (71793171). 5.30 100 Per Cent. The 500th 3.30 ITIM The Return of Frank Cannon (Corey Allen 1980 US). William Conrad's 19-stone sleuth-curn-bon viveur is resurrected for a feeture-length TV movie. The fet chap comes out of retirement to investigate the suspicious suicida of an old friend (1546847).

100 Per Cent. The 500th edition, you'll be utterly thrilled to learn (R) (S) (2786870).

9.00 5 News, including First on Five. Kirety Young is a woman on the move (S) (T) (2783789).

6.30 Family Affairs. Benji oaves in to peer pressure. Pam gives Cat a piece of her mind, and Declan discovere that Yaamin has hidden talents (S) (T) (277/035).

7.00 Knight Rider. David Hesselhoff and his talking oar enter an ellernative fual race to flush out a saboteur intant on nobbling the competition (R) (9410290).

7.30 Nature of Oz. Austrelian wildlife documentary about the Tasmanian tiger (S) (T) (2770219).

9.00 My Titenio. The sinking of the Estonia terry in 1894, from the point of view of one of the 137 survivors (S) (T) (8881509).

US). Set in 1950s Florida, Tyne Dafey end Gerald US). Set in 1950s Florida, Tyne Dafey end Gerald McRensy play a sharecropper and his wife who were unjustly imprisoned for fraud and discover on their release that they have to battle to regein custody of their children. The film is greetly bobstered by Cagney and Lacey's Daley, who alwaya brings an emotionel intensity to her roles, and she's joined by a young Alicia Silverstone as one of the kide (S) (T) (81548257).

10.50 Euro 2000. Highlights of today's Euro 2000 qualifying match between Northern Ireland end Moldovs. Jonathan Pearce is the excitable chap in the background (S) (8803885).

12.30 Ice Hockey: Los Angeles Kings vs Dotroit Red Winge (1068420). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S) (8165975). To Barn. 11.50 Tha Jack Docherty Show. Barbara Windsor and Andy Williama kesp him company (825/257).

TELEVISION GUIDE BY GERARD GILBERT





